

## King, Queen return

AMMAN (J.T.) — Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor returned home Wednesday after a several-day visit to the United Kingdom. King Hussein was accompanied by Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath and other Royal family members. On his return, His Majesty was welcomed by Their Royal Highnesses Crown Prince Hassan, Prince Mohammad, the King's personal representative, Royal family members and senior government officials.

# Jordan Times

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## Iraq to push for full lifting of sanctions

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Emboldened by disarray in the Security Council, Iraq will push for a full lifting of economic sanctions after an apparent failure by the U.S. and Britain to persuade other nations to clamp new restrictions on Baghdad.

The 15-member council was to meet Wednesday to try to reach agreement on a resolution responding to a report by U.N. weapons inspectors that Iraq is still hiding information on weapons banned in 1991 at the end of the Gulf war.

Diplomatic sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Wednesday the council was trying to find a formula which threatens to impose the new measures unless Iraq complies fully with U.N. orders in the next six months.

But the council would stop short of having the new sanctions kick in automatically in April, as the United States, Britain and others had sought.

U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright had appealed personally to foreign ministers of Russia and France to support the U.S.-British measure. It would have provided for the travel ban to take effect automatically on April 12 unless chief weapons inspector Richard Butler reported full Iraqi compliance.

Were such a measure to be approved, the only way the Russians or others could have stopped the April sanctions

would be through a second resolution cancelling the first.

It would also have given Mr. Butler, an Australian, the authority to determine whether Iraq had cooperated enough to prevent new sanctions. The U.N. inspection reports have always been subject to interpretation.

Council members always interpret Iraqi actions differently, with some willing to see improvement if the Iraqis hinder inspections but fewer than before.

But France and Russia claimed giving such authority to the weapons inspectors would infringe on their prerogatives. The U.S., Russia, France, Britain and China are permanent members and can veto resolutions.

Following a meeting Tuesday with U.S. Ambassador Bill Richardson, Russian Ambassador Sergey Lavrov said his government remained opposed to the automatic travel ban.

France and Russia have negotiated lucrative contracts with Iraq that would kick in when sanctions are lifted. They have little interest in adding additional measures against Baghdad.

Mr. Richardson was in Latin America with President Bill Clinton when the U.S.-British resolution was first circulated and returned to the U.N. on Monday.

With the U.S. and Britain unable to overcome opposition, Iraq's U.N. ambassador,

Nizar Hamdon, said Baghdad's main goal now would be the complete removal of sanctions.

"The question of the sanctions we have been living under for the last seven years is the issue for us," Mr. Hamdon said. He said the council should respond to Iraq's efforts to comply with the U.N. by giving "further encouragement" over the coming months "so that we could lift the sanctions."

Iraq claimed last month that it had disclosed everything about its weapons programmes — the main condition for lifting the sanctions. U.N. inspectors said Iraq's latest "full disclosure" was "incomplete" and "contained significant inaccuracies," especially concerning biological weapons.

Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz said last week that if the council continues to maintain sanctions indefinitely, "the situation will become absolutely unacceptable."

That was interpreted as a threat to ban weapons inspectors altogether.

The U.N. inspectors are trying to find out if Baghdad has ended efforts to build long-range missiles as well as chemical, biological and nuclear weapons.

Destruction of those weapons was a condition imposed by the U.S.-led coalition that drove Iraqi forces from Kuwait in the Gulf war.

## Kingdom, Britain to conduct wargames

AMMAN (AP) — Jordan and Britain will conduct joint military manoeuvres aimed at enhancing the Kingdom's defence capabilities, Jordan News Agency, Petra, said Tuesday.

It said the Nov. 24-30 combined arms training exercise intends to "exchange expertise and knowledge and develop them... until reaching military professionalism."

Petra did not disclose the location of the exercise. Previous wargames have been conducted in the desert town of Qatana, 100 kilometres south of Amman.

The agency said a regi-

ment from each side will take part. A Jordanian regiment is made of up to 300 soldiers.

A British embassy official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said it is a "routine" annual exercise between the two armies. The last one was held in September 1996.

Last year, the U.S., which has pledged to help strengthen Jordan's 100,000-strong army, sent Jordan \$100 million worth of military equipment.

Washington also is expected to give the Kingdom 16 F-16 fighter jets worth \$200 million in December.

## Netanyahu cannot be trusted — Mubarak

CAIRO (AFP) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak accused Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu Wednesday of repeatedly breaking his promises, and said it was very difficult to trust him.

"I have met Netanyahu several times since his election [May 1996] and each time he promised me to respect the agreements. But he never kept his word," Mr. Mubarak told the Arab daily Al Hayat.

"Even the Hebron accord signed by his government was never implemented," President Mubarak said, referring to the agreement signed with the Palestinian National Authority in January stipulating an Israeli army redeployment in the West Bank town.

"How can we trust a man who does not even respect his own signature," Mr. Mubarak said.

The Egyptian president warned that the situation in the Middle East was "critical" because the Israeli government had created new tension in the region.

He nevertheless said progress could be made in the peace process "if the United States made more efforts to convince Israel to respect the accords and stop policies such as settlement construction which contradict the accords."

President Mubarak also linked Egypt's participation at the Middle East and North Africa conference in Qatar in November to "a miracle" in the peace process.

"We will monitor the situation to the last minute and we will take a decision three or four days before the start of the conference. Maybe a miracle will happen" before the three-day forum opens on Nov. 16, Mr. Mubarak said.



MOST IMPORTANT VISIT FOR QADHAFI: South African President Nelson Mandela, defying U.S. objections to his visit, walks with Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi on the first day of his two-day state visit to the North African country, Wednesday. President Mandela arrived in Libya for a visit described by diplomats as the most important for the Libyan leader since the U.N. clamped sanctions on his nation in 1992 (Reuters photo)

## Quiet stock trade overshadowed by large contract in JKB shares

AMMAN (R) — Shares on the Amman stock exchange fell fractionally on Wednesday in quiet trade overshadowed by a large contract in Jordan-Kuwait Bank (JKB) shares.

The official 60-share Amman Financial Market index drifted 0.09 per cent down to 170.84 points in trade worth a total of JD14.4 million.

Brokers said most of JD13.2 million of that trade was covered by the sale of JKB shares by Bank of Jordan Chairman Tawfiq Fakhouri, via a chain of brokers, to the state-owned Social Security Corporation.

They said a total of 2.19 million shares changed hands during the day at prices between JD2.980 and JD3.208.

Mr. Fakhouri, a major Jordan-Kuwait Bank shareholder, led a failed attempt to merge the two banks earlier this year and has since sold part of his substantial JKB holdings, brokers say.

Another large transaction in Jordan Hotel Tours worth JD280,000 also propped up volume on the bourse. Shares closed down JD0.4 at JD8.

"Otherwise the market was very quiet, but the worries over the cement shares

sales have stopped," said Ibrahim Odeh of Wataniyeh Brokerage.

Jordan Cement Factories shares rose JD0.02 in JD3.28, building on gains earlier in the week.

The stock fell last week and earlier this week after a foreign fund starting selling, despite assurances from the company that its third quarter results had drastically improved after a poor first half.

Overall gaining stocks narrowly outnumbered fallers by 16 to 14 Wednesday, with another nine trading but closing unchanged.

## Turkey creates security zone in northern Iraq

ANKARA (AFP) — Turkey is keeping thousands of troops in northern Iraq to police a security zone aiming to prevent attacks by Iraq-based Kurdish rebels, the Turkish daily Hurriyet reported Wednesday, citing an unnamed government minister.

The minister said nearly 8,000 Turkish soldiers had been deployed on the Iraqi side of the border, ready to strike against any attempt to infiltrate Turkish territory, according to the newspaper.

Last week, Turkey announced it was withdrawing the bulk of the 15,000 soldiers, backed by air power, it sent into mountainous northern Iraq on Sept. 23 to wipe

out bases belonging to the Kurdish Labour Party (PKK).

But at the time, Ankara refused to say how many troops it would keep in northern Iraq, which has a majority Kurd population which has sheltered the PKK fighting for a Kurdish homeland in southeastern Turkey.

Turkey will also use its local allies in the Democratic Party of Kurdistan (DPK) to help quell the PKK threat.

Turkish Deputy Prime Minister Bulent Ecevit backed the setting up of a buffer zone in northern Iraq in comments made two weeks ago. He said Turkish troop involvement in the region should continue until

the Baghdad government regained control there, something it has not achieved since the end of the Gulf war in 1991.

Turkey said Wednesday that its troops and Iraqi Kurdish allies had killed 862 PKK militiamen in the raids. Military officials say the Turkish troops captured more than 10 PKK bases in northern Iraq. The PKK denies this, saying it has been successfully resisting the Turkish campaign.

The PKK has been fighting the Ankara government for an independent Kurdish state in Turkey's southeast since 1984. More than 26,000 people have died in Turkey in the conflict.

## Lebanon truce panel hears complaints

NAQOURA (AFP) — The international committee monitoring a truce in south Lebanon Tuesday urged Israel and the Lebanese resistance to ensure that residential areas are not affected by their military actions.

The committee, which met to discuss a Lebanese complaint and an Israeli protest against violations of the April 1996 ceasefire, said in a statement that both sides are responsible for the way in which their assaults are conducted.

The panel said that on

Oct. 17 "mortar rounds fired by the Israeli forces or those cooperating with them impacted in the southern part of the village of Mashghara, injuring two innocent civilians and damaging houses and civilian equipment."

The Lebanese delegate on the panel said the firing, which "followed a legitimate military action of a Lebanese armed group conducted from a site away from populated areas, constituted a violation of the understanding," according to the statement.



## Japan allocates JD1.65m for Nov. 4 House elections

press release Wednesday. An agreement to this effect was signed on Oct. 22 in Amman by Minister of Planning Rima Khalaf and Japanese Ambassador Takayuki Kimura.

The amount is drawn from the newly-created Jordan-Japan Special Fund for Social and Economic Development, which was established in Oct. 19, 1997, with a capital of \$60 million to support projects in Jordan, utilising Japanese grants, the embassy said.

The allocated funds will

cover expenditures to purchase computer hardware and software and other equipment and materials needed in the election process such as polling station furniture, typewriters, printers and stationary.

Mr. Kimura said after the signing: "We are glad to be given the opportunity to financially support the democratic process of the Kingdom. We are sure that those material preparations will facilitate the smooth implementation of this important election."



By Francesca Ciriadi  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Responding to widespread accusations that the Nov. 4 elections will be rigged, and commenting on recent evidence that forged voting cards are being circulated in some constituencies, the Ministry of Interior Wednesday made assurances that no effort will be spared to track down forgers and buyers of voting cards (see story on page 3).

"They [forged voting card traffickers] are wasting their time and money," Ministry of Interior Director General Hashem Sabbagh told the Jordan Times in a telephone interview Wednesday.

According to Dr. Sabbagh,

## Ministry of Interior says those dealing with forged voting cards will be punished

his ministry and the police are "highly concerned with the matter" and special investigations are underway to ensure that "only legitimate card holders" will go to the polls.

Dr. Sabbagh warned that voting card forgers and buyers will be punished to the maximum extent of the law. He added that the penalties for forging, selling, buying, or simply possessing fake cards range from a JD100 fine to a two-month to three year imprisonment term.

The official stated that investigations are still going on in the case of two people arrested earlier this week, who were found in possession of 1,500 forged voting cards belonging to the Central Bedouin and different Amman districts.

The case was first reported by the Arabic daily Al Arab Al Yawm Tuesday.

Meanwhile, Minister of Interior Nahir Rashid said

repeated names were deleted from the final list of registered voters, which originally totalled 1,908,271.

In interviews published yesterday in the Arabic dailies Al Aswaq and Al Dustour, Mr. Rashid announced that around 80,000 repeated names were recently deleted from the list.

Sources at the Ministry of Interior told the Jordan Times that the new total of registered voters is 1,890,030, and said 50.65 per cent of registered voters (957,297) have collected their cards as of yesterday.

Mr. Rashid also pledged that members of the Armed Forces, Public Security, and Civil Defence, who are not allowed to vote according to Article 5 of the Elections Law, will be ordered to remain at their posts on election day.

Election observers and opposition candidates have repeatedly questioned the government on the number

of registered voters, which they deemed far too high when compared to the Kingdom's 4,444,000 estimated total population.

According to Department of Statistics figures for 1996, citizens below the voting age of 19 total 2,357,100, while eligible voters are 2,086,900.

Opposition candidates have said that, after deducting from the total of eligible voters the number of those affiliated with the armed and security forces (more than 120,000) and those who did not register for the elections, the number of registered voters should be much less than 1.9 million.

Notwithstanding the recent measures undertaken to enforce the law, opposition candidates still doubt the next elections "will be fair, saying that the Elections Law itself is unfair and undemocratic."

"Ensuring the respect of an unfair Elections Law does not mean ensuring fair elec-

tions," said Amman 3rd District Christian candidate Khalil Haddadin.

Mr. Haddadin, who is running under the ticket of the Jordanian Arab Ba'ath Socialist Party, criticised the current one-person, one-vote system as encouraging tribalism and reducing opposition groups' representation in Parliament.

An independent analyst defended the government from a possible wave of criticism over the forged cards affair, but maintained that such incidents are encouraged by the current "political atmosphere," for which, he said, both the government and the opposition are to be faulted.

Director of Al Urdun Al Jadid Research Centre Hani Hourani said "it is ridiculous to blame the government [for the circulation of forged voter cards], but on the other hand we should think that, when election campaigns are based on tribal affiliations

and provincial outlooks rather than national plans, this [the forgery of voter cards] is bound to happen."

With the boycott of the strongest opposition group, the Islamic Action Front (IAF) and other eight political parties, election campaigns are being held in an "atmosphere of general carelessness and apathy," according to Mr. Hourani.

In such an atmosphere, he said, "some people think they can get away with crimes such as forging voter cards, while they would think twice before risking a national scandal if more political parties and people were participating in the elections."

Agreeing with Mr. Hourani, former Minister and Deputy Jamal Shaer, who has been on the political scene for more than 50 years, said "an equation is emerging to characterise the 1997 elections: On one side, the Islamic movement is boy-

## Two more candidates withdraw from race

AMMAN (J.T.) — Sources at the Ministry of Interior told the Jordan Times that two more candidates withdrew from the race yesterday, bringing down the number of candidates running for the 80-seat Lower House from 561 to 548. The two candidates who decided to throw in the towel were Ali Kayed (Jerash) and Radwan Ja'arat (Karak). Earlier this week, four other candidates abandoned the race: Jamal Abu Yahia, Marwan Deiri and Nayel Wada'an (Amman 1st District) and Khalil Mara'i (Amman 2nd District). The Court of First Instance has approved the Ministry of Interior's decision to reject seven candidates, due to discrepancies in the documentation submitted by would-be candidates. Candidates can withdraw from the race up until Nov. 3, one day before the elections.

cotting, and, on the other side, tribalism is intensifying."

A strong critic of the one-person, one-vote system, Dr. Shaer said he expected the elections to be fair.

"One very important reason is that many non-Jordanians are watching, such as diplomats and journalists."

The other reason for which Dr. Shaer said he believed

that the next elections will be fair is that Jordan's status in the international arena and current international aid and support depend on the positive image the Kingdom can give on its democratisation process.

"We do not have oil. The only thing we can sell to Arabs and non-Arabs, to gain their goodwill, is our democracy," Dr. Shaer concluded.



# Algerians go to polls today amid crackdown on Islamic extremists

ALGIERS (AFP) — Algerians will cast their ballots in local elections Thursday that have largely been ignored by voters more concerned about an upsurge in attacks by Islamist extremists that have left hundreds dead.

The elections, considered the last stage in a government bid to revamp the electoral system, come amid an army crackdown on the radical Armed Islamic Group (GIA) which has claimed responsibility for several horrific massacres in recent months.

Authorities say the killings left less than 200 people dead whereas witnesses put the death toll at more than 500.

Fearing renewed attacks by the GIA, the campaign leading up to the vote Thursday has largely been ignored in several areas.

In all, some 16 million voters can cast their ballots in the local elections in which the National Democratic Rally (RND) party close to President

Liamine Zeroul is expected to perform well.

Created at the beginning of the year, the party is to contest nearly all the country's 1,480 local polls and is uncontested in 37 of them. More than 87,000 candidates will stand in the proportional-style elections.

Several parties have criticised the RND of being backed by the government and of being ready to cheat in order to tip the vote in its favour, a charge rejected by the party.

"We are at the forefront of the struggle against terrorism, we are the ones who will save Algeria," says one RND candidate.

Close behind the RND is the former ruling National Liberation Front (FLN) which has candidates standing in most communities. Its government coalition partner, the Movement for Social Peace, alongside the RND has its candidates in about one half of the towns and villages.

The banned Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), which in 1992 was set to sweep to power in general elections that were subsequently suspended, has called for a boycott of the vote from its bases abroad and for the government to undertake a global solution to end the nearly five-year civil war in Algeria that has claimed an estimated 60,000 lives.

Authorities, however, dismiss such suggestions and are presenting the elections as the final piece of institutional rebuilding after a presidential poll in 1995, a constitutional referendum in 1996 and June's parliamentary elections.

Candidates in the elections have led a low-key campaign because of several attacks and the difficulties of daily life in parts of the country where the armed insurrection against the authorities continue.

At least 10 people have been killed in Algeria in recent days in attacks against civilians and candidates standing in the local

elections, media and party officials say.

Amid the growing tension, special security measures have been ordered by the authorities including a suspension on weekly markets and a ban on heavy loads being transported in towns. Algeria's private press has also reported a major military crackdown on the GIA which has apparently continued its bloody attacks despite a unilateral ceasefire called by the radical party at the beginning of the month.

Beginning three weeks ago, the press reported a military operation against a GIA camp 15 kilometres south of the capital and another move against suspected GIA bases in the Bainein forest to the west of Algiers.

The newspapers said that the GIA had placed mines and other obstacles in the way of the advancing forces who were using bulldozers to slowly carve a path through the Bainein forest.



**SHEIKH YASSIN ADDRESSES STUDENTS:** Sheikh Ahmad Yassin, the Hamas founder who was recently released from Israeli jail, is surrounded by his supporters as he enters the Islamic University Wednesday. Sheikh Yassin said during his speech that Hamas will continue to fight the Israeli occupation (Reuters photo)

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Qatar deports 20 'homosexual' Filipinos

DOHA (AP) — Qatar has deported 20 Filipinos suspected of engaging in homosexual acts, a Filipino embassy official said here Wednesday. "Twenty have been deported and there are 16 more awaiting deportation for the same charges," Abraham Estavillo said. The Filipinos were not charged in court. Police in the capital, Doha, arrested them on Oct. 1 in a raid on clothing and barber shops that had been under surveillance for several weeks. If convicted of committing a homosexual act in Qatar, foreigners are usually sentenced to five years in prison and are then deported.

### Turkish police arrest man with big bomb

DIYARBAKIR (R) — Turkish police arrested a man with a powerful bomb in the eastern city of Elazig on Wednesday, a statement from the provincial governor's office said. It said the man, Ali Cemal Ercan, was arrested near the city's main bus station with the bomb made of dynamite and packed with nails and bullets. It was also equipped with a timing device. "If it had exploded it would have led to a large loss of life, if it had been placed on a bus, it would have killed it," said an Anatolian news agency quoted Elazig governor Lutfullah Bilgin as saying. Anatolian said Ercan, a postal worker, denied being a member of the separatist Kurdistan Labour Party (PKK), but said he worked as a courier for the group.

### 'Missing' Israeli policeman found in resort

TEL AVIV (AFP) — An Israeli border policeman sparked a security alert Wednesday when he was reported missing while hitchhiking to his base in the West Bank. But the 19-year-old policeman was caught several hours later wandering around the Red Sea resort of Eilat, police said. Police launched a hunt for Yossi Soud after he was reported missing while hitchhiking overnight from his home near Tel Aviv to his base east of Jerusalem in the occupied West Bank. Army troops and border police began searching for officer Soud in the Jerusalem area and issued appeals for help on public radio amid concerns he may have been kidnapped by Palestinian militants.

### Gas station attendant shot by driver

RIYADH (AP) — A gas station attendant who tried to stop a Saudi motorist from driving off without paying was shot dead, a newspaper reported here Wednesday. The motorist filled up with \$ 6.50 worth of fuel at a Riyadh gas station, but then refused to pay, the Arab News reported. When an Indian attendant tried to stop him from driving off, the motorist pulled out a gun and shot him in the leg. Another attendant, also from India, intervened and the driver shot him dead, the paper said.

## Iraq calls on U.N. to seize rockets from PUK

BAGHDAD (AFP) — An Iraqi newspaper Wednesday demanded the U.N. seize rockets from the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), accusing the group of firing the weapons at villages in northern Iraq and receiving open support from Iran.

The official Babel newspaper, run by Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's son Uday, said Jalal Talabani's PUK had used short-range Grad rockets against civilian targets during last week's inter-Kurdish fighting.

"Talabani recently used Grad rockets for the first time against villages and

towns in Iraqi Kurdistan, with the flagrant support of Iran," said the paper.

The paper said the use of Grad rockets was "a dangerous development which threatens the national security and resources of Iraq, especially given the fact that Mr. Talabani's group is positioned near Tammim province where the oil fields (of Kirkuk) are situated — the nerve centre of our economy."

"Who will guarantee that this group will not use its arms against our towns and our oil fields?" asked Babel. The paper called on the

U.N. to seize the rockets from the PUK, warning that otherwise "Iraq would be authorised to take adequate measures to protect its people and maintain its security and sovereignty."

A large swathe of northern Iraq has operated outside the Baghdad government's control since the Kurdish uprising against President Saddam in the aftermath of the 1991 Gulf war.

The PUK and the rival Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) jointly ruled the region until their power-sharing agreement collapsed into armed conflict in 1994.

The U.N. coordinates the delivery of humanitarian relief in northern Iraq, but it has no mandate to intervene militarily in the region.

Five days of fighting between the PUK and the KDP flared on Oct. 12 leaving an estimated 100 people dead before a shaky truce brokered by Britain, Turkey and the United States came into force.

Eric Falt, the spokesman for U.N. humanitarian operations in Baghdad, said that according to reports received by his office northern Iraq was calm on Wednesday morning.

The PUK accused the KDP on Tuesday of violating the ceasefire and of expelling 370 people from the main Iraqi Kurdistan city of Erbil.

"The KDP forces launched an offensive against PUK positions at 2:30 a.m. (local time) on the Shaqlawa-Heran road, seriously violating the ceasefire that went into force Oct. 17," the PUK said.

The KDP had said it would only honour the truce until Monday night to allow the PUK to pull back to positions that it occupied before the latest fighting started,

although the U.N. later said the KDP extended the deadline to Tuesday night.

Turkish foreign ministry spokesman Omer Akbel told reporters in Ankara that despite several violations of the truce accord, the situation in northern Iraq had remained generally calm since Friday.

But he added that for the truce to hold in the long term the PUK would have to give up the land it captured during the five days of fighting and return to the positions brokered under an October 1996 ceasefire.

## U.N. officer investigated for 'alcohol smuggling'

KUWAIT (AP) — United Nations observers said Wednesday one of their officers is being investigated for allegedly smuggling alcohol from Iraq into Kuwait, where liquor is banned.

The mission is "taking the matter very seriously," and a special team from the world body's headquarters in New York is investigating, Abdullahi Rijal, the U.N. Kuwait-Iraq Observation Mission spokesman, said.

He was reacting when asked to comment on a report published Tuesday in Al-Siyassah daily.

The newspaper said Kuwait police arrested the officer with 500 bottles of whisky and \$500,000 in his U.N. car. It did not give his name or nationality or say

when he was arrested. It said he had been doing this for a long time.

Mr. Rijal declined to give any details and would only say it was a number of bottles reported in the daily was "overly inflated."

U.N. observers have been patrolling a demilitarised zone along the desert border between Kuwait and Iraq since the end of the 1991 Gulf war that liberated this small oil-rich state from a seven-month Iraqi occupation.

Kuwait has built a trench along the 210-kilometre frontier to keep smugglers and infiltrators out. It is now fortifying it with an electrified fence that is partly in operation and is expected to be finished soon.

## Peres calls for Palestinian state

TEL AVIV (AP) — Former Prime Minister Shimon Peres called Tuesday for the establishment of a Palestinian state in a speech closing the two-day inaugural session of a new peace institute that bears his name.

"In a very strange and paradoxical way, in order for Israel to remain a Jewish state we need a non-Jewish state in part of Israel," Mr. Peres told Israeli, Arab and world dignitaries gathered to launch the Peres Centre for Peace. "It is not that we are doing a favour to anybody. We need it for our ourselves."

With 4.7 million Jews and some four million Arabs living in Israel, the West Bank and Gaza, the alternative was a binational state which neither Israelis nor Palestinians desire, he said.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who edged out

Mr. Peres in last year's election, still opposes the creation of a Palestinian state — a key issue fuelling discord between Israel and the Palestinians.

The Peres Centre for Peace had been ridiculed as a sinecure for the 74-year-old Mr. Peres, who reluctantly stepped down as Labour Party leader several months ago and was replaced in a primary election by former military chief Ehud Barak.

But the stream of more than 100 world dignitaries who arrived at the official opening Monday was an impressive show of support for his ideas. Many stayed on for seminars on peace Tuesday.

The centre issued a statement saying that dozens of regional cooperation projects have already been decided upon and have unspecified financing. It mentioned a project to turn 25,000 Israeli and

Palestinian children into pen pals and the creation of a new industrial park on the edge of the autonomous Gaza Strip which will provide up to 50,000 jobs for Palestinians.

Earlier Wednesday, at a session on the lessons of peace-making, there was marked difficulty in avoiding politics and maintaining the intended academic tone.

Palestinian speakers repeatedly attacked Mr. Netanyahu's right-wing government and expressed longing for the softer style of Labour — especially for former chief negotiator Uri Saviv, who now runs the Peres Centre.

U.S. envoy Dennis Ross — taking a break from his current peace shuttle — said what was needed was for negotiators on both sides to have empathy for each other. At the opening session

Monday, former U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher noted that "relations between Israelis and Palestinians have eroded alarmingly" over the past year.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa put the blame squarely on Israel, saying that at no time since the late Egyptian President Anwar Sadat launched the peace process by visiting Israel in 1977 "has the process witnessed such a loss of credibility" and "the ball is in the Israeli government's court."

Also on hand were Minister of Water and Irrigation Munther Haddadin, Palestinian cabinet ministers and security officials, German Parliament Speaker Rita Suessmuth, and others. The centre's international board of governors includes Mikhail Gorbachev, Jimmy Carter and Henry Kissinger.

## JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 773111-19

### PROGRAMME TWO

14:10...New Kids on the Block  
14:30...My Little Fairy Tale  
15:00...America's Funniest People  
15:30...He Shoots He Scores  
16:00...I Love Lucy  
16:30...The Boy From Andromeda  
17:00...French Programmes  
19:00...News in French  
19:15...French Programmes  
19:30...News Headlines  
19:35...Trivial Pursuit  
20:00...Parenthood  
20:30...Lois and Clark — Superman  
21:10...Oprah Winfrey Show  
22:00...News in English  
22:30...Feature Film  
23:59...End of T.X.

### PRAYER TIMES

04:23...Fajr  
05:40...Sunrise/Duha  
11:20...Dhuhr  
14:30...Asr  
17:00...Maghreb  
18:17...Isha

### CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church  
Sweifeh, Tel. 810740  
Assemblies of God Church Tel.  
632785.  
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590  
Church of the Annunciation  
Tel. 637440.  
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757.

## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Terra Sancta Church Tel. 622366

Anglican Church Tel. 652826

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751

Armenian International Church Tel. 5516245

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824328

German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 688404

The Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932

Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691

The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295

English-speaking Latin Catholics Parish Tel. 614190

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology

Temperatures are expected to rise with skies sunny to partly cloudy, and winds westerly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Amman...11/23

Aqaba...15/28

Deserts...07/25

Jordan Valley...15/28

Yesterday's high temperatures:

Amman 21, Aqaba 26 Humidity readings: Amman 52 per cent, Aqaba 28 per cent.

### USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

#### NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Mazen Al-Nabli...830435

Dr. Fayed Dabbas...759155

Dr. Adnan Zaghoul...98140

Dr. Fakher El-Beladi...552233

Firas pharmacy...661912

Ferdows pharmacy...778336

Al Asema pharmacy...637055

Nairookh pharmacy...623672

Al Salam pharmacy...636730

Yacoub pharmacy...644945

Shmeisani pharmacy...637660

Najib pharmacy...847632

IRBID:

Dr. Ahmad Qam...281484

Al Quds pharmacy...636381

ZARQA:

Dr. Zuhour Al Qadi...906606

Khalifeh pharmacy...985417

### EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre...637111

Civil Defence Department...661111

Civil Defence Immediate Rescue

630341

Civil Defence Emergency...199

Rescue Police 192...621111

637777

Fire Brigade...617101

Blood Bank...775121

Highway Police...843402

Traffic Police...896390

Public Security Department...630321

Hotel Complaints...605800

Price Complaints...661176

Water and Sewerage Complaints...897467

Amman Municipality Complaints...787111

Telephone Information (direct assistance)...121

Overseas Calls...010230

Central Amman Telephone Repairs...623101

Abdali Telephone Repairs...661101

Jordan Television...773111

Radio Jordan...774111

Water Authority...680100

Jordan Electricity Authority...815615

Electric Power Company...636381

RJ Flight Information 08-53200

Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200

### HOSPITALS

AMMAN:

Hussein Medical Centre

813813/32

Khafidi Maternity...644281/6

Al-Balqa Maternity...642441/2

Jabal Amman Maternity 642362

Malhas, J. Amman...636140

Palestine, Shmeisani 607071

Shmeisani Hospital...669131

University Hospital...845845

Al-Musharraf Hospital 667227/9

The Islamic, Abdali 666126/7

Al-Ahli, Abdali...664164/6

Italian, Al-Muhajreen 777101/2

Al-Bashir...775111/26

Army, Marika...891611/15

Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50

Amal Hospital...674155

The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery...865199

ZARQA:

Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323

Zarqa National Hospital (09)900560

Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986732

Al-Hikma Modern Hospital (09)990990

IRBID:

Princess Basma Hospital (02)275555

Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272275

Ibn Al Nafies Hospital (02)247100

AQABA:

Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

### FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200, where it should always be verified.

Information on other flights are supplied on phone 08 (52700) or 08(53250).

### ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights

07:05...Sanaa (RJ)

08:45...New Delhi (RJ)

09:05...Dhahran Riyadh (RJ)

09:05...Bombay (RJ)

09:25...Beirut (RJ)

09:40...Muscat, Dubai (RJ)

09:45...Doha, Bahrain (RJ)

10:00...Colombo (RJ)

14:15...Kuwait (RJ)

14:55...New York, Amsterdam (RJ)

16:05...Moscow (RJ)

16:30...London (RJ)

18:20...Bangkok, Calcutta (RJ)

18:25...Athens (RJ)

18:45...Abu Dhabi, Al 'Ain (RJ)



## Princess Sarvath stresses importance of interfaith dialogue for 'a better future'

MANCHESTER (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath Al Hassan has stressed the importance of promoting interfaith and inter-cultural dialogue, saying that only through understanding and appreciating their similarities and differences can the three monotheistic religions offer hope for a better future.

In a speech opening an exhibition on the Dead Sea copper scrolls on behalf of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Princess Sarvath emphasised that "while we must recognise that the specifics of our tradition and practices are vital, they must never

obscure the values of tolerance and compassion for all our fellow human beings, regardless of race, colour, or creed.

"It is this denial of the rights and humanity of others that invariably leads to the spiralling nightmare of violence and terror," Princess Sarvath said at the opening of the exhibition entitled "Treasures from the Dead Sea: The Copper Scroll after 2000 years."

Recognising the painstaking research and study undertaken by distinguished scholars to decipher the scrolls which were discovered near the Dead Sea in 1952, Princess Sarvath said

it was the firm belief in the importance of these scrolls to humanity at large that led Jordan to appoint an editing team to study them.

She pointed to the emphasis that the three monotheistic religions place on scholarly work, which is considered an act of worship.

"I hope that as we look at the humanitarian requirements of understanding our past, in the hope of creating a better present and future," Princess Sarvath said, "exhibitions such as this will serve to help us all identify common ground and to think and act in terms of universal values."

The copper scroll was discovered

in 1952 during the course of an expedition conducted by the Department of Antiquities on the north-west shore of the Dead Sea. The exhibition's principal purpose is to highlight the role of the Department of Antiquities since the scrolls, which reside in Amman, were first discovered.

The exhibition, which features the 23 strips of the copper scroll now hosted in Manchester by the Manchester-Sheffield Centre for Dead Sea Scrolls Research, follows an international symposium that was devoted exclusively to the study of the copper scrolls.

## Prime minister reviews election preparations in Salt, Madaba

SALT-MADABA (Petra) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali Wednesday expressed satisfaction with the arrangements taken so far by the various governorates to create an appropriate climate for the elections.

Addressing the executive councils of Salt and Madaba during visits to the two towns, the prime minister praised the efforts of the officials in charge of the preparation of the elections and the local citizens for their awareness and determination to exercise their constitutional right.

The large number of people turning out to receive their voter cards and take part in the elections has exceeded expectations and reflected the good image of the citizens and democracy in the Kingdom, he said.

In his remarks, Dr. Majali stated that the government was embarking on plans to introduce decentralisation, which he said is most beneficial for encouraging investments.

The government will continue implementing the economic reforms that started in 1989, encouraging

the peace process, and addressing internal problems, particularly the weakness in public administration, he added.

Madaba Governor Abdul Karim Malameh reviewed the general situation in the governorate and presented its needs and demands, which he said include a dam at Waleh, an industrial city, and a major road linking the city with the Jordan Valley.

On preparations for elections, the governor said 48,644 persons registered to vote and 46 voting centres will accommodate

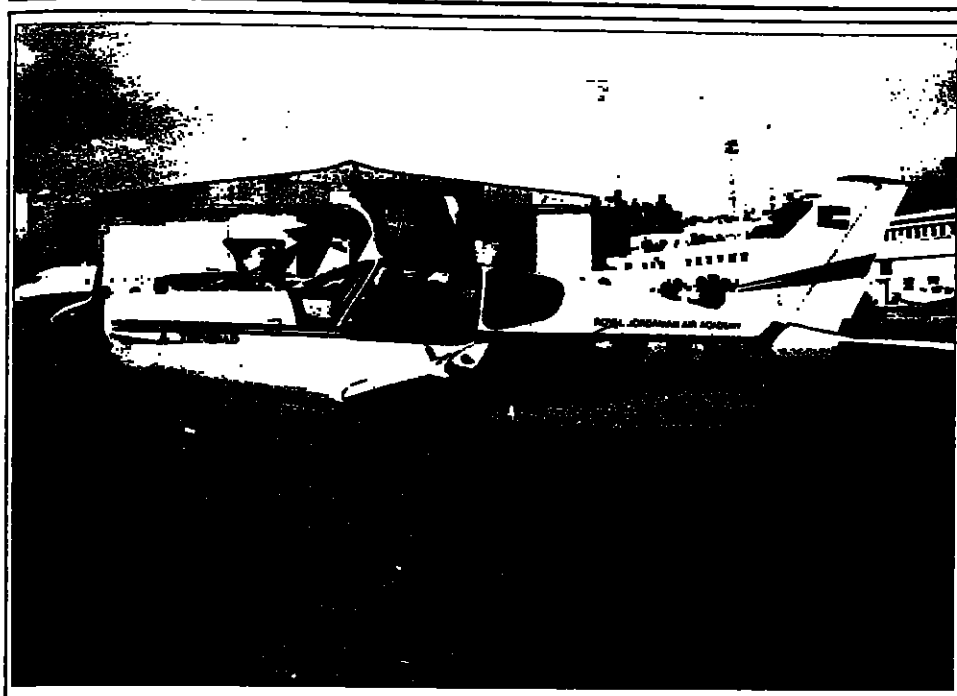
them.

He stated that 30 centres have been opened for the distribution of voter cards.

Balqa Governor Abdullah Hasban said distribution of voter cards in his governorate reached 70 per cent.

The mayor of Salt presented the prime minister with a number of demands concerning roads, a hospital, and street lighting.

The meetings were attended by Minister of Interior Nathir Rashid and the governorates' officials.



TRAINING PLANES JOIN THE RJAA: Two French-made training planes Wednesday are added to the Royal Jordanian Aviation Academy (RJAA). The RJAA was established in 1971 and has turned out 1,050 pilots, 60 per cent of whom are non-Jordanians (Petra photo)

## Jordan, U.K. to conduct military training next month

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan and the U.K. will conduct joint military manoeuvres with the goal of enhancing the Kingdom's defensive capabilities, according to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

The Nov. 24-30 combined arms training exercise intends to "exchange expertise and knowledge and develop them," according to Petra.

This is part of the annual military training by the Jordan Armed Forces, conducted in collaboration with armed forces of Arab and friendly nations, Petra said.

The agency did not disclose the location of the exercise, but previous war games have been conducted in the desert town of Qatana, 100 kilometres south of Amman.

Petra said a regiment from each side will take part in the exercises. A Jordanian regiment is made up of 300 troops. A British embassy official said it is a routine annual exercise between the two armies.

The most recent exercise was held in September 1996.

## Public sector health professionals increase work stoppage to four hours

By Odeh Odeh  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — In a move considered an escalation of the work stoppage taken by doctors, pharmacists, and dentists employed by the public sector, strikers Wednesday observed a four-hour work stoppage, providing no services to the public except in emergency cases.

Basem Dajani, president of the Jordan Medical Association (JMA) and spokesperson for the strikers, said the members of three associations are still willing to hold a dialogue with the government to reach a settlement.

The strikers, who are demanding higher salaries, higher allowances, and other benefits, Monday held a two-hour work stoppage to back their demands and, should they receive no response, from the government, intend to stage a full-day strike Saturday, according to Dr. Dajani.

Reacting to the strikers' action, Minister of Health and Medical Care Ashraf Kurdi said the government believes in dialogue but it by no means can accept strikes, threats, or blackmail and would not succumb to pressure of this kind.

He said the government would not resume a dialogue with the three associations until the escalation of the work stoppage ends, adding that a ministerial committee has been created to discuss the strikers' demands.

According to JMA Vice President Salim Smadi, "association sub-committees in the governorates have reported that the strike was observed in various hospitals and health centres."

The three associations said they have sent a letter to HRH Crown Prince Hassan requesting an audience to present their views and the demands from the Ministry of Health and Medical Care.

"We call for the application of regulations and a return to dialogue and we are committed to serving the nation," the letter stated.

"We demand an improvement of our living conditions. We demand that the ministry introduce an 'incentives system' and implement resolutions passed by the former minister of health," the letter continued.

Dr. Kurdi told the press that the three associations resorted to work stoppages despite the fact that the ministerial committee has been continuing the dialogue with them.

On the doctors' demand that the government pay them part of the fees collected from the public for treatment, the minister said these fees are collected from taxpayers and are used to pay for water, electricity, and food for the inpatients and for the x-ray and laboratory expenses, and could not be paid to the associations.

Should the current dialogue reach a dead end, the strikers could resort to court, whose decision will be accepted by both sides, the minister stressed.

However, he said, strikes are considered a violation of the law, and disregarding patients' health is a violation of ethics.

Dr. Kurdi warned that the ministry is determined to apply Article 44 of the Civil Service Law of 1988 to deal firmly with any persons found to be disrupting public medical services.

## Ministry deals with voter list problems, continues preparations for elections

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Interior has engaged the services of a computer expert to help eliminate the problem of repeated names on voter lists and guarantee that the correct number of registered voters will be allowed to cast ballots only once each, Minister of Interior Nathir Rashid said Wednesday.

In an interview published in the Arabic daily Al-Dustour, Mr. Rashid said the ministry discovered that there were 80,000 repeated names on the registered voters list, which were immediately deleted (See story on page 1).

The government is determined to guarantee fair and free elections and so has required that a voter produce a family registration book or identity card, obtain a voting card, and vote in the elections, the minister stated.

Mr. Rashid echoed remarks by Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali, saying the government will be neutral in the elections and will neither back any candidate or group of candidates, nor interfere in the elections.

When asked why the government has taken down

some campaign banners, he said two out of 561 candidates had their banners removed because the slogans they carried do not represent the general public's orientation, adding that he is authorised by law to remove such banners or posters.

The minister noted that the removed banners belonged to a former intelligence officer who retired and shifted his views from extreme right to extreme left, and another person whose campaign is being financed by foreign sources.

When asked if the government has invited foreign observers to monitor the elections, Mr. Rashid revealed that an official organisation in an Arab country asked to monitor the elections, but Jordan refused the request.

"We are fully confident that the elections will be fair and free and I will not invite observers to Jordan, because the country is open to all," he added.

On the arrest of a citizen in the Irbid region for urging the public to boycott the elections, Mr. Rashid said: "It was upon my order that the arrest took place. I asked that the man be referred to trial, but later he was released after pledging that he would not carry out similar acts."

Denying allegations that the next Parliament will not include any opposition deputies, he said the 13th Parliament will include opposition members and political opposition groups.

He stated that the previous Parliament had no opposition in the beginning, but opposition groups later emerged during debates.

Mr. Rashid revealed that disciplinary action was taken against two government officials who violated the regulations concerning voter card distribution.

"I will not succumb to pressure and I have taken action against these two officials," he added.

When asked about the government's attitude toward professional and trade unions, the minister replied "we have no problem with them. The present government has no plans concerning the unions. I believe that the unions should seek only to guarantee work for their members, but the government does not plan to introduce amendments to the unions law."

## Workshop meets to develop poverty alleviation strategies

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Experts and practitioners met Wednesday at a one-day workshop entitled "Mechanisms for Poverty Alleviation" to develop strategies that can provide bases for tangible actions to tackle poverty in Jordan.

At the opening of the workshop, held at the Royal Cultural Centre on the occasion of the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, UNDP Resident Representative Jorgen Lissner said Jordan is dealing with the poverty problem in three aspects, research, action, and increasing awareness.

In terms of research, Mr. Lissner said several studies and analyses were conducted to determine the size and cause of the problem.

In terms of action, he maintained "coordination does not exist between the government and the non-governmental organisations."

As for increasing people's awareness of the problem, Mr. Lissner pointed out that people are aware and interested about poverty issues "but do not know what to do."

He stated that the workshop aimed at tackling issues that are neglected, such as finding ways to move from the macro-scale of policy formulation and numbers to specific

ic and tangible mechanisms of tackling the issue of poverty, and publicly raising awareness on the plight of the poor.

Government officials announced recently that 150,000 families live near the line of absolute poverty, accounting for 21 per cent of the total population. Families living under the line of abject poverty were estimated by government studies at nine per cent of the population.

Senior UNDP Programme Officer Abia Amawi said Wednesday's gathering brought together a number of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) working at the grassroots level to brainstorm on the obstacles they face in implementing poverty programmes in the field and in devising definite plans to deal with and overcome these obstacles.

Further, Dr. Amawi said the Jordanian government has started providing the Social Security Package (SSP), in cooperation with the UNDP and other voluntary organisations, "and the participants are working to come out with strategies and mechanisms to implement the SSP programme."

Also speaking at the opening ceremony, Minister of Social Development Mohammad Mamser reviewed the role the ministry

plays in addressing poverty and aiding families who live below the poverty line.

In reviewing one of the ministry's programmes, the National Aid Fund, Dr. Mamser told the gathering that the programme supports more than 32,000 families by giving them between JD40 and JD50 per month, adding that "the ministry is planning to increase the amount to JD60 per month."

Participants Wednesday viewed two films, a documentary and a musical, both entitled "Face to Face with Poverty," and both illustrating the actual lives of the poor.

The seminar included a paper that was presented by sociologist Musa Shtawi entitled "Obstacles Facing Institutions Working in Poverty Alleviation Endeavours," a paper presented by Dr. Amawi on "Mechanisms for Poverty Alleviation," and a paper presented by Sadeq Khawaja on "Poverty Awareness."

According to Dr. Amawi, the working group will devise recommendations that will be submitted to the Ministry of Planning and other relevant ministries and institutions.

### WHAT'S GOING ON

**POETRY READING CONCERT**  
\* Poetry reading concert entitled "A Rhythmic Celebration of America" by American poet James A. Emanuel and American saxophonist Chastise Evans at the American Center, Abdoun on Thursday at 7:00 p.m.

**CONCERTS**  
\* "An Opera in the Making" (performing Mozart's Marriage of Figaro) by the orchestra of the National Music Conservatory at the Royal Cultural Centre on Thursday at 8:00 p.m.  
\* Musical performance by Freddy For Music at the Royal Cultural Centre on Thursday at 6:00 p.m.

**FILMS**  
\* "Los Goyos Las Sombras" (pts 8,9,10) at the Institute of Cinemas, Jabel Amman on Thursday at 5:00 p.m.  
\* "The Remains of the Day" at the American Center, Abdoun on Thursday at 5:00 p.m.

**LECTURE**  
\* Lecture (in Arabic) and slide show by Dr. Ahmed Baqir of Basman about Bahraini contemporary art at the American Center, Abdoun on Thursday at 7:00 p.m.

**EXHIBITIONS**  
\* Works by Bahraini artist Sheikh Rashid Al Khalifa at the American Center, Abdoun until Nov. 15. Also displaying a new collection of works by contemporary Arab artists.  
\* Ceramics exhibition by Raddi Dabbat at Orfali Art Gallery, Umm Uthman, south Oct. 30.  
\* "Oriental Gem" (Tales) by Zafar Hamdan at the Royal Cultural Centre, until Oct. 23.  
\* Paintings by Iraqi artist Wafiq Nasrallah at Hammam Art Gallery, Gardens Street, until Oct. 28.  
\* Paintings by Abdul Qader Bakhti at Instituto Cervantes, Jabel Amman, until Oct. 30.  
\* Works by Iraqi artist Ali Al-Hadi at Baladon Art Gallery, Gardens Street, until Oct. 23 (Tel. 5537398).  
\* Exhibition of paintings and weaving entitled "Mirrors of Our Land" by Shihab Ghannam and Basim Hamdan at Basim Hamdan House (Tel. 6388967), until Oct. 30.  
\* Exhibition of paintings and sculpture of the 20th century entitled "Arab Modernism" at the Jordan National Gallery of Fine Arts, until Oct. 26 (except Tuesdays).

## Minister of agriculture, World Bank officials review agricultural export plan

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Agriculture Mijhem Khreisha and a team from the World Bank Wednesday reviewed a project for the development of agricultural exports, which is expected to cost \$25 million and will be largely funded by the World Bank through loans.

The government and a number of international organisations will also partially finance the project, which is designed to attain

a qualitative improvement in and a boost of Jordan's agricultural exports to new markets abroad.

Mr. Khreisha told the team that Jordan hopes to develop the agricultural sector by giving further attention to increasing the output and improving the quality of agricultural products and increasing exports.

He said Jordan is determined to increase output and open new markets because, he said, market-

ing at the right time and season remains the biggest stumbling block in the path of this sector's development.

Jordan has concluded agreements for exporting agricultural products to Arab and foreign markets, he said.

The Jordanian-European partnership agreement is certain to help Jordan utilise modern technology, especially in packaging, refrigerating, and transporting products, he

added.

Noting that the Council of Ministers recently endorsed the ministry's strategy for increasing production, Mr. Mijhem said the government has created the General Federation of Farmers and is studying the creation of a special agricultural production fund, in which both the government and local farmers can participate in order to increase production and improve the quality of products.



# Russian government, parliament end showdown with calls for compromise

MOSCOW (AFP) — The Russian government and Communist-dominated lower house of parliament found room for compromise Wednesday after a flurry of concessions from the government prompted the opposition to withdraw a no-confidence motion.

Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin told the lower house, the state Duma, that its withdrawal of the motion was "a constructive decision which has shown the possibility of cooperation."

"A new political and economic era awaits us. In the economy, it is the path of growth and a stable financial system. In politics, it is the stability of the constitutional system and responsibility by all branches of power," he said.

Mr. Chernomyrdin confirmed the government's readiness to renegotiate the new tax code, flagship of its reform programme, which would drastically streamline Russia's antiquated and punitive tax system.

The liberal opposition Yabloko faction had demanded renegotiation of the tax code as a condition for dropping its support for a no-confidence motion.

Mr. Chernomyrdin assured the Duma: "The government is ready for any compromises which will improve the tax code."

The Duma passed the code on its first reading in June, but it still has to go through two more readings before going to the upper house and President Boris Yeltsin for approval.

Although Yabloko had made revision of the tax code its main condition, the Communists had pressed Mr. Yeltsin above all to adopt a new law on the government, already passed by both houses of parliament.

Mr. Yeltsin agreed to discuss the law, prompting Communist leader Gennady Zyuganov to urge party members to declare a truce Wednesday, noting "progress in negotiations between the branches of

power."

The new law would give parliament more control over the government's composition, possibly forcing more resignations than just that of the prime minister in the event of a majority no-confidence vote.

The Communists have aimed most of their criticism at Mr. Chernomyrdin's deputies — free market reformers Anatoly Chubais and Boris Nemtsov.

If the Duma votes no-confidence twice within three months, Mr. Yeltsin must either fire his prime minister or dissolve the Duma and call new parliamentary elections.

Despite Mr. Zyuganov's decision to back down, some hard left deputies vowed to collect signatures for a new no-confidence vote. The new motion was initiated by Sergei Baburin, a hardline nationalist and leftist member of Popular Power.

Mr. Baburin accused Zyuganov of having made a

"strategic mistake," ITAR-TASS reported.

Commenting on Mr. Baburin's move, Popular Power leader Nikolai Ryzhkov said a split had emerged in the leftist opposition, and charged that it was "neither to the advantage of the Duma nor Baburin himself."

Apart from recalling the tax code, Mr. Yeltsin announced that the opposition would also have greater access to television, and that he was prepared to fulfil a long-standing demand of the Communists to hold a regular roundtable with parliamentary and regional leaders.

But according to political analyst Nikolai Petrov of the Carnegie Endowment think-tank, Mr. Yeltsin's concessions were largely "symbolic."

"Genuine cooperation with the Duma is excluded under Russia's presidential constitution. The Duma is unable to influence the government's day-to-day policy and won't unless it can

push through the law on the government," he told AFP.

However, both the government and opposition have "shown society that they have serious positions, and have both saved face," he said.

Both the 1998 budget and new tax code will be adopted "after further haggling," Mr. Petrov predicted.

Andrei Piontkovsky, head of the Centre for Strategic Studies here, said that a revision of the tax code was "inevitable after the opposition had proposed 4,000 amendments to it."

"This is a personal blow to Chubais, who was the initiator and leading force behind this code."

The business daily Kommersant commented that Mr. Yeltsin had "decided to do what all serious business was waiting for — order the government to withdraw its draft tax code."

"The chances for the economy to get a fairer tax system are improving," it added.



A Communist hardliner holds a portrait of former Soviet dictator Stalin during a protest rally outside the state Duma, Russia's Communists, the biggest faction in the State Duma lower house of parliament, formally withdrew a no-confidence motion in the reformist government (Reuter photo)

## Laws needed to protect British Muslims — report

LONDON (R) — New laws are needed to protect Britain's 1.5 million Muslims from discrimination, harassment and even physical violence, a report said Wednesday.

Far more must also be done to end anti-Muslim prejudice in the British media and the workplace, said the report by a private multi-religious commission.

"The legal changes we have recommended... are essential, to help crystallise a new climate of opinion..." said the Runnymede Commission on British Muslims and Islamophobia in its report.

"Until and unless such changes have been introduced, Britain cannot claim to be an inclusive society."

The commission, chaired by a leading British academic and including Muslim, Jewish and Christian representatives, was set up last year. More than 160 bodies submitted

reports and consultative meetings were held across the country.

Muslims tended to live in poorer housing and were more likely to be unemployed than other groups. Professor Gordon Conway, the commission's chairman, said discrimination against Britain's Muslims was getting worse.

"It's getting more explicit, it's getting more extreme, it's getting more dangerous. Islamophobia is a real phenomenon in our society," he told BBC radio.

The report said the media commonly portray Islam as monolithic and aggressive, ignoring the diversity which exists within the religion. This negative view is also used to justify racism, it added.

The report said discrimination on religious grounds — not just racial, as under current law — should be made illegal. Incitement to religious

hatred should be made a crime and legislation on blasphemy, which currently only covers anti-Christian utterances, should be amended.

Rules on state funding of schools should also be reviewed to make it easier for Muslim schools to qualify.

There are 58 private Muslim schools in Britain, but none in the state sector. By contrast, around 7,000 schools with Christian or Jewish affiliations are receiving public financial support, it said.

The commission also called for more effort by political parties to include Muslims — there is only one Muslim member of parliament — and a tighter code of practice for the media to avoid religious discrimination.

But it said Muslim bodies in Britain also had a job to do to improve their image and break down barriers.

## More body parts found at pastor's home

BRUSSELS (AFP) — Belgian police have found more remains of human bodies at one of the homes of a Protestant pastor who has been charged with murdering two former wives and four of his children. Judicial officials said Wednesday.

The remains were discovered Tuesday in one of the three Brussels homes of Belgian-Hungarian pastor Andras Pandey.

The gruesome search for more possible victims was concentrated on an unoccupied property in the run-down Brussels suburb of Molenbeek where police have already uncovered a human leg, pieces of skull, a hip and other unidentified pieces of flesh.

Another house owned by the 71-year-old Belgian

pastor of Hungarian origin, in the same neighbourhood and his main residence in central Brussels were also to be gone over with a fine tooth comb, prosecutors said.

In Budapest, police chief Colonel Lajos Kovacs said Tuesday a house owned by the pastor in Budakeszi, 30 kilometres north of the Hungarian capital, would also be searched.

As the searches continued, more details of the long-haired pastor's past began to emerge, some of which fuelled fears that the members of his immediate family may not have been his only victims.

Belgian media reported that one of Mr. Pandey's surviving children, Agnes, 39, had testified that her father had relationships

with some 20 Hungarian women in the early 1990s when he was looking for a third wife and placed a series of adverts in Hungarian newspapers.

Born in Csap, Hungary, on June 1, 1926, Mr. Pandey left his native country for Belgium after the Hungarian uprising against Soviet domination in 1956.

In 1968 he was granted Belgian citizenship, although he also maintained his Hungarian nationality. A fluent Dutch speaker, Mr. Pandey earned a comfortable living as a religious instructor in several schools in Flanders (the northern Dutch-speaking part of Belgium) and was described by neighbours as a discreet character who kept to himself.

## S. Korea 'will not back Germany's U.N. bid'

SEOUL (AFP) — South Korea told Germany Wednesday it would not support its bid for a permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council, saying it opposed an expansion of the council's veto power.

At a joint news conference here with visiting German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel, his South Korean counterpart Yoo Chong-Ha said Seoul favored an alternative formula under which middle-power countries such as South Korea could take part more frequently in the Security Council.

South Korea is against an expansion of the veto power though it "understands the wish of Germany to expand its role in the world community commensurate with its expanding economic power," Mr. Yoo said.

But he said Seoul would remain "flexible" on the issue of expanding the council and on other U.N. reforms now under consideration.

Diplomatic observers

here saw Seoul's reluctance to back the move as linked to fear that Japan might also be selected for a permanent seat if the body is given more permanent members.

Seoul has remained silent on Tokyo's bid for a permanent seat in an attempt to balance the two nations' strong economic links and the still-raw emotional backlash against Japan's harsh 1910-1945 colonial rule.

Mr. Kinkel started the day with a meeting with President Kim Young-Sam, and continued with talks with Mr. Yoo and at the Unification Ministry which deals with links with North Korea.

The German foreign minister, who arrived in Seoul late Tuesday, reached agreement to update two accords on social security exemption and double taxation, Foreign Ministry officials said.

Thursday he is due to visit the truce village of Panmunjom in the Demilitarised Zone which divides the two Koreas before leaving at noon.

## Michener captivates readers a final time

AUSTIN, Texas (R) — James Michener, the author of a long list of best-selling books, captivated his readers one last time with a note he wrote shortly before his death that was distributed Tuesday at his funeral.

In the type-written message, dated Oct. 9, Michener assured his friends that he had lived a full and happy life and was not afraid of his impending demise.

He died at his Austin home Thursday at the age of 90 after choosing to stop life-sustaining kidney dialysis treatments the week before.

"It is with real sadness that I send you what looks to be a final correspondence between us. The medics have left little doubt that this present illness is terminal. I approach this sad news with regret, but not with any panic," he wrote in a note enclosed in the funeral programme.

Michener said he was spending his last days reflecting on his life: "I savour every memory as they parade past. What a



A bust of author James Michener, with a lei around his neck and surrounded by tropical flowers, was placed in the sanctuary during a memorial service for the late writer who died last week (Reuter photo)

full life they made, and what a joy they bring me now what a joy your recollection of them gives me now.

"It is in this mood that my final days are passed," he concluded.

Michener was remembered Tuesday as an author who wrote prolifically about the world and the people he met as he travelled to virtually every country on the globe. He

was best known for his first book, the 1948 Pulitzer prize winner "Tales of the South Pacific," which became a long-running Broadway musical and film.

"Michener's deeds have enriched the world and thousands of people in it, he exalted ideas and possibilities and he did it while pursuing far-ranging interests all over the globe, his only navigator his own curiosity," said University of

Texas Vice President William Livingston, a friend of Michener who delivered the eulogy.

At the end of his comments, Mr. Livingston turned to a bronze bust of Michener that was draped with a flower lei. "Aloha, Jim Michener," he said.

Michener, an orphan adopted by a Pennsylvania Quaker family, rose from humble beginnings to become one of the giants of American popular literature. During a career that spanned 50 years, he wrote more than 40 books that sold 75 million copies.

Among his many novels were "Centennial," "Hawaii," "Poland," "The Covenant," "Texas," "Alaska," "Caribbean" and "Space." His "Tales of the South Pacific" was based on his experiences in the U.S. Navy in World War II and became a stage musical and film by Rodgers and Hammerstein under the title "South Pacific."

About 300 people attended the funeral. Michener's body was not present, but was to be cremated and placed next to the remains of his wife, Mari, in an Austin cemetery. She died in 1994 of cancer.

Michener began dialysis treatments in 1993 after his kidneys failed. Friends said he had been in declining health in recent months and decided it was time to put an end to what had become a painful ordeal.

He lived in Austin the last 15 years of his life and was a professor at the University of Texas.

Mr. Livingston said a memorial service for Michener would be held later in New York City.

## Chinese riot police fire teargas at farmers

HONG KONG (AFP) — More than a dozen people were injured when riot police fired teargas to disperse angry farmers in southern China, a government source said Wednesday denying reports that one person had died.

At least one person was seriously injured, while others suffered slight injuries in the clashes in Guangdong province Tuesday sparked over government plans to remove ancestral graves on a scenic site as part of a tourism scheme, he told AFP by telephone from the provincial capital Guangzhou.

The clashes erupted as the farmers tried to reason with local government officials over the plans for the hilly area of Xiqiaoshan in Nanhai city, he added.

But he dismissed press reports in Hong Kong that one person was killed, and denied more than 30,000 people had joined the protests as relatives and friends came from neighbouring cities.

"It is being exaggerated," he said, adding that only 100 riot police had been called in to disperse several hundred protesters.

The situation had calmed down Wednesday as local government officials listened to the grievances of the protesters, he added.

Some people were unhappy with the amount of compensation from the government, while others protested the suddenness of the administrative order.

The Chinese-language Oriental Daily News said

the three days of protests involved 500 farmers fearful the removal of their ancestral graves could mar "feng shui" — Chinese traditional belief that man-made things should be in harmony with nature.

Good "feng shui" at an ancestral grave site is believed to bring wealth and luck to descendants of the dead person.

The daily said riot police fired 20 canisters of teargas to disperse the farmers and beat up protesters who assembled outside the local administration office and destroyed some 100 vehicles.

Other protesters tried to prevent workers removing the graves from Xiqiaoshan.

Hong Kong newspapers said trouble started when officials decided to take control of a site allocated to villagers a decade ago.

The villagers were angry at the low compensation offered and the short notice given to remove graves.

Workers brought in to clear the graves allegedly damaged a newly interred corpse.

Burials have become increasingly popular in wealthy Guangdong province, despite renewed government efforts to save scarce farmland by promoting cremation.

The digging of graves is banned on arable and forest land. China's rulers — sensitive to land shortages and disdainful of what they see as the extravagance of traditional rituals — have been promoting cremation since the 1950s, with only partial success.

## Endangered pandas face threat of overpopulation in Chinese zoos

BEIJING (AFP) — Giant pandas, threatened in the wild with extinction, are under no less a threat of overpopulation in Chinese zoos, where successful breeding programmes are creating their own problems, the China Daily reported Wednesday.

"The steady increase in the number of captive pandas in the country is causing strains on the facilities and creating problems for the healthy growth of giant pandas in captivity," the official English-language newspaper said.

China is home to around 1,000 wild pandas in the central provinces of Sichuan, Gansu and Shaanxi, but their survival is threatened by inbreeding and urbanisation.

Since 1963, 179 pandas have been born in reserves or zoos. The fertility rate among the latest has grown with the development of new breeding techniques.

Zoologists first succeeded in artificially inseminating a female panda in 1978, then in 1990 perfected a technique to ensure the survival of twins born in a multiple birth. In the wild, the mother abandons one twin to aid the survival of the other, China Daily noted.

The mother will devote herself to her cub for two years before she can reproduce

again. But in captivity, it is possible to raise the baby panda with human help after 12 months, effectively doubling the mother's reproductive ability.

Pandas reach reproductive age at around three-and-a-half years and stay fertile until aged 20. Even with a very weak survival rate (only a fifth of pandas born in captivity live beyond their third birthday), some zoos are beginning to suffer from a shortage of space for their young pandas.

"We think it is not suitable to artificially breed such a big population of pandas," Zhang Hemin, a researcher at Wolong Reserve, was quoted as saying. "We have just expanded our breeding centre to improve the pandas' living conditions. But we are now being faced with a space problem because of the increasing population," he said.

A solution could lie in releasing some of the captive pandas. But the animals' natural living conditions are so little known to zoologists that they would not know which of the captive pandas would be best suited to life in the wild.

Instead, researchers have suggested building captivity centres more closely attuned to the natural environment of pandas.



## Singapore hauls to court skippers in worst oil spill

SINGAPORE (AFP) — The captains of two tankers that collided and caused Singapore's worst oil spill were charged in court Wednesday with reckless navigation and endangering human lives as the cost for the mammoth clean-up escalated.

Jan Sokolowski, the Polish skipper of the Thai-registered crude carrier Orapin Global, and Greek Captain Michael Chalkitis of the Cyprus-flagged oil tanker Evoikos were hauled to court two days after being arrested following the mishap a week ago in the Singapore Strait.

Mr. Sokolowski, 54, was alleged to have navigated the vessel "in a manner so rash as to endanger human life" and failed to take action to avoid the collision, whose cause has erupted in an intense debate among shipping circles.

He faces a six-months jail sentence or a fine of up to 1,000 Singapore dollars (\$666) or both.

Mr. Chalkitis, 58, was charged with breach of duty as he allegedly failed to reduce speed and prevent his ship from being seriously damaged. He faces a fine of \$50,000 or two years jail or both.

Officials said that the skippers, who were ordered remanded by district judge See Kee Oon, would be produced again in court Friday for a hearing.

The Orapin Global, a very large crude carrier owned by Thai International Tankers-Bangkok, was empty at the time of the accident, which badly damaged the Evoikos, then carrying 120,000 tonnes of marine fuel oil from the United Arab Emirates.

None of the crew of the two ships was injured but about 25,000 tonnes of marine fuel oil was estimated to have leaked from the Evoikos, which suffered severe damage to three of its cargo tanks, and caused one of Southeast Asia's worst oil spills.

The bow of the Orapin Global was also damaged. The oil slick, which has spread to Malaysia and Indonesia, is the worst in the history of Singapore, Chen Tze Penn, director-general of the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA) said Monday.

The previous most serious oil incident in Singapore occurred in 1975, when the Japanese supertanker "Showa Maru" ran aground in the Singapore Strait and spilled 3,300 tonnes of light crude oil.

Mr. Chen had said the movements of Evoikos and Orapin Global were tracked before the collision by high-tech systems which warned of their impending impact as much as 13 minutes before it occurred.

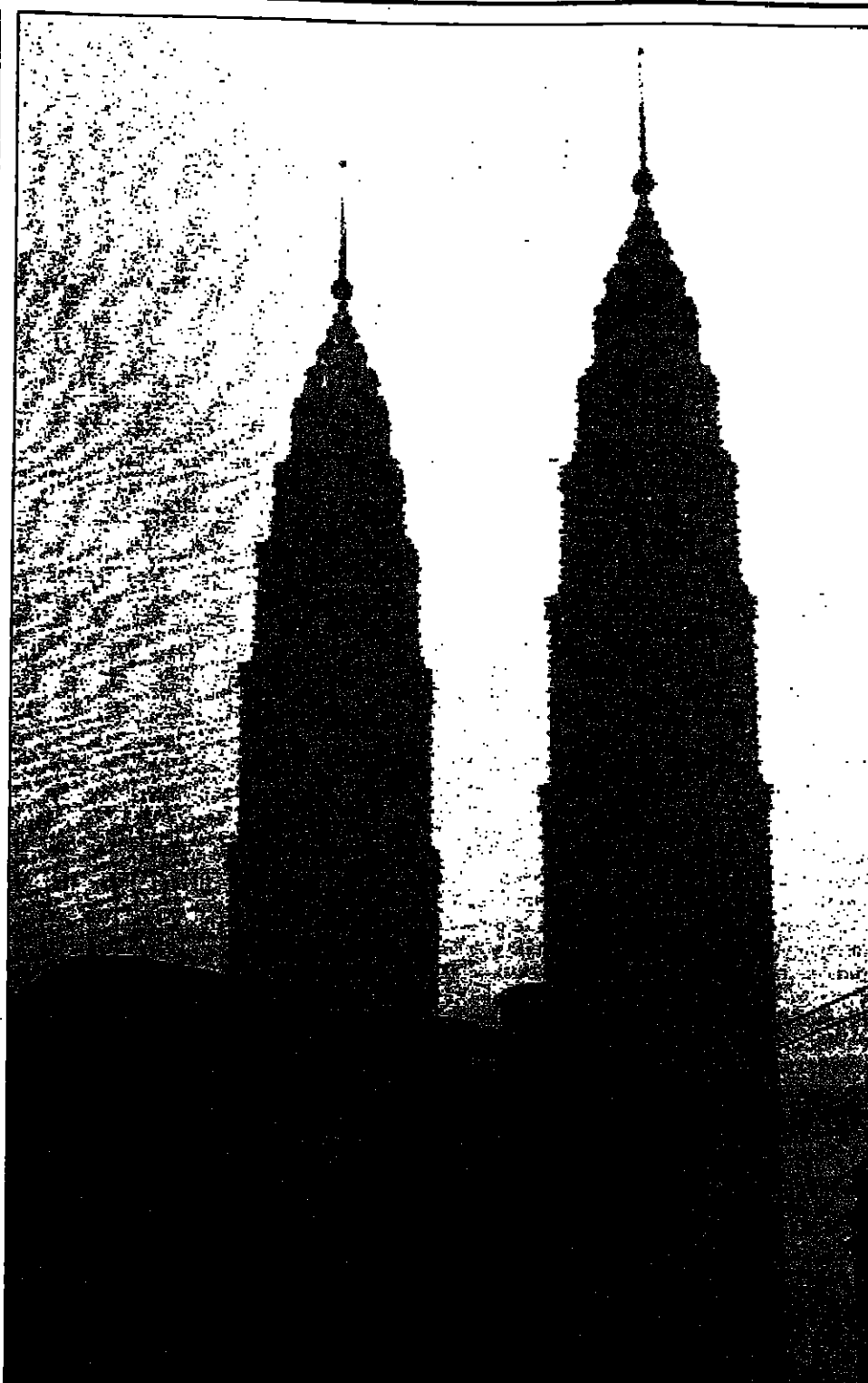
The Oslo-based International Association of Independent Tankers Owners (IITOW) had suggested that large ships needed more time to manoeuvre but the MPA said there was enough warning for the skippers to avoid the collision.

A blow by blow video screening of footage to the media by MPA Monday showed the west-bound Orapin Global transiting the Singapore Strait on the wrong lane before it collided with the east-bound Evoikos.

The MPA said the Evoikos was also warned of the approaching Orapin Global, adding that both vessels acknowledged receipt of the warnings, Mr. Chen said.

Denholm Ship Management, which manages the Orapin Global, had charged that the Evoikos had gone into the lane for west-bound traffic and cut into the path of the Thai supertanker.

It also charged the Evoikos had cut across the west-bound lane at a narrow angle, rather than at a right angle, as international regulations require.



The early morning sun struggles to shine through smog enveloping the world's tallest building, the Petronas Twin Towers, in central Kuala Lumpur. Dense smoke from forest fires on Sumatra Island and in Kalimantan, on the Indonesian side of Borneo Island, have spread over much of Southeast Asia, causing widespread health alarms (Reuters photo)

## Indonesian haze remains at danger level, minister says

JAKARTA (AFP) — The smoke haze which has choked Indonesia since August remains at a "dangerous level", while visibility in parts of Sumatra and Borneo Islands was under 100 metres Wednesday. "The smoke has slightly lessened but it remains at a dangerous level," Environment Minister Sarwono Kusumaatmaja said according to the Antara news agency.

The haze, blamed on widespread forest and ground fires across the country, has also caused several airports to close due to the resulting low visibility, Mr. Sarwono said.

After having eased slightly following rains earlier this month and a decreasing number of fires, the haze began to return in force last week in several parts of the country.

Reports received by the meteorology headquarters here showed that by early Wednesday five areas of Sumatra and Kalimantan, the Indonesian part of Borneo, had "zero visibility" — where sight was limited to under 100 metres.

Zero visibility was registered in Jambi and Palembang in Sumatra and in Pangkep in West Kalimantan, Balikpapan in East Kalimantan and in Palangkaraya in Central Kalimantan, said Zakir of the meteorology office.

At least eight other locations in Sumatra and Borneo recorded visibility of between 100 metres and 500 metres, Zakir said.

In central Kalimantan, the low visibility led to a river accident between a tugboat and barge and a motorised canoe Sunday that left 28 people dead, according to the Antara news agency.

Smoke from widespread forest and ground burning across Indonesia during the drought has sent thick, acrid smoke across most of South East Asia and caused serious health concerns in the region.

Thick smoke has also hampered airports of food and medicine relief to isolated regions of the easternmost province of Irian Jaya which have been struck by a severe prolonged drought that has

killed close to 500 people. The country's leading environmental watchdog, Walhi, has estimated that roughly 1.7 million hectares of forest and ground across the country have been affected by the fires.

At least six Indonesians have died of haze-related ailments while the health of over 40,000 others has been affected, officials have said.

International help has poured into the country to help Indonesia combat the fires, and the population to face the resulting thick haze.

Australia, the United States and Singapore have contributed aeroplanes for water spraying while Japan, South Korea, France have contributed equipment and funds.

Neighbouring Malaysia, which along with some parts of Thailand, Singapore and the Philippines has also suffered from the haze, has deployed over 1,000 firemen to help douse fires in Sumatra for two weeks in September and October.

## Greenpeace slams Clinton's 'dinosaur' policies

BONN (R) — The environmental group Greenpeace urged U.S. President Bill Clinton Wednesday to abandon what it called his "dinosaur policies" and agree to significant reductions in "greenhouse gases" to help halt global warming.

Greenpeace Climate Policy Director Bill Hare made his appeal to the U.S. leader hours before Mr. Clinton was due to announce targets he will seek in a treaty to be signed in Kyoto, Japan, in December.

To illustrate its point, Greenpeace erected a six-metre high sculpture of a dinosaur constructed from old car parts and pieces of rusty scrap metal outside the last meeting of environment officials before the Kyoto summit.

"The dinosaurs died out because of climate change and they couldn't adapt.

Japan and the U.S. are running dinosaur policies. They are not adapted to the realities of the modern world, particularly the threat of climate change," Mr. Hare said.

Mr. Hare said it would not be enough for the United States to settle for a so-called "zero reduction", bringing the emissions, which have already risen since 1990, back down to that level by 2010.

The burning of fossil fuels produces carbon dioxide and other gases that are believed to be slowly warming the earth.

"President Clinton has to rise to the challenge of climate change and not bow to industry pressure to delay real action," said Mr. Hare.

"He needs to improve that if Kyoto is going to be a success. If this zero point reduction... is adopted in Kyoto it

will be a political and environmental failure," Mr. Hare said.

If the United States and Japan were not prepared to act soon, vast tracts of the globe could suffer famines and droughts and parts of the natural world could disappear if the expected melting of the polar ice caps causes the sea level to rise, Mr. Hare said.

More than 150 signatories to a 1992 United Nations climate change convention will gather in Kyoto from Dec. 1 to 10 to hammer out binding targets for cuts in greenhouse gas emissions.

The EU wants all industrialised nations to accept its proposal for a 15 per cent cut by 2010, a plan both the United States and Japan say is unfair and impractical and relies mostly on emissions reductions in Germany and Britain.

## UNESCO finds compromise to Cambodian seat dilemma

PARIS (AFP) — Cambodia took its seat at a U.N. conference in Paris Wednesday after a compromise was agreed to overcome a dilemma caused by the country's political divisions, a UNESCO official said.

The country was given "temporary credentials" and the seat was taken by Prince Norodom Sihamoni, the king's son and Cambodia's permanent representative to the U.N. Education, Scientific and Cultural Organisation.

"It is a very honourable solution," said an official, who requested anonymity and said the proposal had been accepted in a vote by a plenary session of UNESCO's ruling body, which meets every two years.

The dilemma, similar to that which left a seat empty at last month's U.N. General

Assembly in New York, was the result of the dispute between Cambodian strongman Hun Sen and ousted co-premier Prince Norodom Ranariddh.

Hun Sen laid claim to the U.N. seat in New York as did Prince Ranariddh, who was ousted by his rival in July, leaving the General Assembly seat empty.

The UNESCO general conference, which was formally opened Tuesday by UNESCO Director-General Federico Mayor, gathers 2,000 representatives of the organisation's 186 member states. It runs until Nov. 12.

The U.N. body's nine-member Credentials Committee had met twice Tuesday to discuss the issue, and had finally agreed the compromise proposal Tuesday evening, the UNESCO official said.

Cambodia's seat had remained empty Wednesday

morning on the second day of the meeting, but delegates voted on the Credentials Committee proposal during the morning plenary session and accepted it, she added.

On the eve of the conference UNESCO head Mayor called on Cambodia's King Norodom Sihamoni to help resolve the issue. "The only possible way to resolve Cambodia's representation would be a letter from the king," said Mr. Mayor.

No such letter had yet been received by UNESCO, the official said, but added that the solution of "temporary credentials" had overcome the problem.

She added that in fact Cambodia's credentials could be made permanent at any time during the conference if such a letter was received. The general conference will focus on fixing

the 1998-99 budget for education, scientific developments, culture and communications.

In particular it will debate ethical issues concerning genetic engineering, neuroscience and bioethics. On July 28 UNESCO published a draft declaration on guidelines for such activities.

Up to 150 ministers are scheduled to address the conference, mostly on education. Several hundred representatives of non-governmental organisations are also attending.

The conference will mark the return of Britain to UNESCO's ruling body after an 11-year absence. Britain left UNESCO at the end of 1985, one year after the United States had pulled out, accusing UNESCO of being over-political, biased against the West and badly run.

## Missouri ignores pleas, executes convict

KANSAS CITY, Missouri (R) — Convicted hit man Alan Bannister was put to death by lethal injection shortly after midnight Wednesday at a Missouri prison, despite an international campaign to stay the execution.

A crowd of protesters waited outside the gates of Potosi correctional institute in Potosi, Missouri, in silent vigil while Bannister was executed, a prison spokesman said.

The execution ended a 14-year battle to have his death sentence overturned by supporters who claimed that a bungled defence led to a wrongful conviction of premeditated murder.

Last-minute appeals with the U.S. Supreme Court and the Missouri governor all failed Tuesday. Hollywood stars including Sean Penn, Harry Belafonte, Gregory Peck and Ed Asner, as well as the police officer who originally arrested him, had all made appeals on his behalf.

Bannister, 39, was sentenced to death for the 1982 killing of Darrell Ruestman after prosecutors argued that he had been promised \$5,500 by the jealous husband of a woman who had run off with Ruestman.

He admitted to the killing, but said the shooting was accidental so he should have been charged at most with second-degree murder, which is not punishable by death.

In his final words, Bannister strongly condemned the state for committing "as premeditated a murder as possible, far more heinous and deliberate than my crime." He also thanked all those who had supported him.

For his last meal, Bannister ate a ribeye steak, salad with ranch dressing, a baked potato and fried mushrooms with a Pepsi to drink.

His case won widespread attention after the first of two documentary films about his case was released. Lindsay Graham, a British woman who struck up a correspondence with him after seeing the film, moved to Missouri and married him in 1993.

She watched as he was put to death. Five members of Ruestman's family were also present.

Supporters had set up web sites on the Internet about his case and flooded state officials with letters, faxes and E-mails from around the world. The state attorney general's office said letters continued to pour in Tuesday and that no other capital punishment case in the state had received so much attention.

Nearly 100 protesters opposed to the death penalty gathered outside the prison gates for a candlelight vigil as the execution took place. Seven capital punishment advocates were also present, the prison spokesman said.

## 12 wounded in mine attack on Sri Lanka bus

COLOMBO (AFP) — Suspected Tamil Tiger rebels ambushed a bus Wednesday in eastern Sri Lanka and wounded at least 12 passengers, while three guerrillas were killed in other clashes, officials said.

The separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) set off a land mine at Kalawanchikudi in Batticaloa district, probably mistaking it for a police commando bus, officials said.

They said a similar vehicle used by the Special Task Force (STF) commandos was due to pass through the area but was unable to make the journey after a mechanical failure and the civilian bus went ahead.

Officials said the mine went off just in front of the bus which was taking

some 60 passengers. They said there could have been more casualties had the vehicle gone over the device when it exploded.

Local officials said 12 people were seriously wounded in the attack and brought to Batticaloa main hospital.

The attack came exactly a week after the rebels set off a truck bomb in Colombo that killed at least 20 people and wounded 105.

In the north of the country, security forces shot dead three Tiger rebels in two separate confrontations Tuesday, the Defence Ministry said.

The LTTE is leading a campaign for independence in the island's northern and eastern regions where the two million Tamil minority is concentrated.

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### Israel's historical chance

IN HIS interview with CNN television network, aired Tuesday, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan shed more light on the guidelines that determined the way Jordan dealt with the foiled attempt on the life of Hamas leader, Khalid Misha'al, last month. The assurances that were extracted from Israel not to ever repeat such a "James Bond-like" attempt on Jordanian soil was by no means the only outcome of the affair. As Prince Hassan was entrusted by His Majesty King Hussein to deal with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his company, who rushed to Jordan after the failed attempt to offer their deepest regrets, the Crown Prince personally set the tone and contents of the discussions with the Israeli leaders.

No doubt the Crown Prince seized upon the opportunity to tell Mr. Netanyahu that such actions coupled with Israeli policies in the occupied territories and its treatment of the Palestinians brought relations between the two countries to near total breakdown. However, despite mistrust in the intentions of the Israeli prime minister, Jordan will continue to have faith in the proposition that peace is an irreversible process no matter how long the current Israeli government dragged its feet. "It is better to light a candle than to curse the dark," the Crown Prince said during the interview. Jordan will continue to play a major role in the peace process in its broadest context and has been "searching for everything at the bottom of the barrel" to find solutions to the repeated hurdles put before peace by the Likud-led government.

Of particular relevance and importance in this context is the Crown Prince's observation that the size of Palestinian trade and commerce with Israel is still 240 times that with Jordan. There can be no doubt that Israel still views the Palestinian territories as its exclusive market to manipulate as it sees beneficial to its own economy. Jordan's reservation about this undue Palestinian dependency on the Israeli economy is not self-centred but stems from the realisation that as long as the Palestinian economy is held captive by Israel, the standard of living of the Palestinian people will continue to be depressingly low. The high cost of production in Israel obviously makes Israeli products beyond the reach for most of the Palestinian people and in the process renders them easy prey to poverty and low standards of living and consequently breeds frustration and extremism.

If Netanyahu wants to show any measure of goodwill to make up for all his recent and not-so-recent blunders, he should at least take the offer of Hamas for ceasefire seriously. If he really has Israeli security at heart, as he claims, then an end to violence from both sides can be achieved. Hamas' conditions for the ceasefire are not impossible to meet. After all, the movement's call for total Israeli withdrawal from the territories it occupied in 1967 is a universal one. It is now up to Netanyahu to prove to the Israelis that he is the leader they deserve and to the Arabs and the world that he is the man to make peace, as he claims he is.

### ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A WRITER for Al Ra'i strongly attacked the Israeli government and its Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu for failing to provide protection to the Jordanian embassy staff and their families when their homes were stoned by anti-Arab hooligans in Tel Aviv. Munes Razzaz said that for four hours the embassy employees called for help and telephoned the police but nobody came to deal with the situation. "We have a peace treaty with Israel but not a treaty of subjugation to the Jewish state," said the writer, who noted that if this is the Israeli behaviour towards Jordan which is enthusiastic about peace with Israel, "then how would the situation be with other Arab countries which are not interested in the idea of making peace with Israel?" The Arabs have been subjected to British and French colonial rule for many years but the Arab inhabitants were never treated in such manner as is manifest by the Israeli government, noted the writer. He said Jordanians have their dignity and will defend it by all means.

A WRITER for Al Arab Al Yawm, Khaled Zubeidi, tackled the coming Doha economic meeting expressing the view that most Arab countries are expected to attend it, though some of them will unwillingly do so. He said most Arabs are attending in order to please the U.S. which wants them to take part in the meeting in which Israel is participating in order to ensure the continuation of the peace process. As to the economic aspect, the coming Doha meeting is not expected to benefit the Arabs nor will it contribute towards enhancing economic development or promote the peace process or peaceful coexistence among the nations of this region, the writer added. Qatar, the writer pointed out, feels embarrassed about this situation and indeed it is the least country that can benefit from the meeting. It will be more realistic and beneficial to the Arabs, he said, if they rely on their intrinsic economic power, pool their resources and agree on meaningful steps to revive joint Arab action in the political and economic domains.

### View from Academia

## Normalisation of Arab relations is perhaps what is most logically needed

Dr. Ahmad Y. Majdoubeh

MANY, IF not most, of the slogans articulated by our candidates for the forthcoming November 4 parliamentary elections are not in the least exciting (much like the campaign itself perhaps): some are archaic clichés, some are old-fashioned and reactionary, some are unrealistic, some are confused, some are meaningless, some are nonsensical, some are ludicrous, some are hilarious, and some are insulting to our intelligence.

But some are interesting. Among these is one which particularly attracted my attention as I was driving in one of the suburbs of Amman the other day. Written on an unpretentious white banner in black letter (in Arabic, of course), it reads: "Arab normalisation alone is the real base for political and economic freedom." Some readers may find this slogan funny, some may find it farcical, some foolish, some unrealistic, some insulting; and they may be right. For whenever we talk about Arab relations, nothing seems to work. So why keep talking about it? We have, for decades, been talking about Arab unity, solidarity, cooperation, coordination; but not much has materialised.

Nevertheless, I like this particular slogan. The idea it carries (explicitly or implicitly) is not only correct but is intelligent and perceptive. Aside from the obvious fact that the real, ultimate strength of the Arab World lies, simply, in its dependence on itself, first and foremost, with each individual state looking at once after its own interests as well as the mutual interest it shares with other Arab countries, I like the choice of the term "normalisation."

We have not heard the word used much with respect to Arab relations. In recent history (i.e. since the late 1970s when Egypt signed the Camp David Accords with Israel), the word has been used almost exclusively in discourse about Arab-Israeli relations. In such context, the word has acquired a remarkably pejorative and negative sense. In the context of Arab-Arab relations, we have been

employing more appealing and attractive words such as those cited above: unity, solidarity, cooperation, coordination, integration, etc.

The use of the term "normalisation" in connection with Arab relations, unlike its use in connection with relations with Israel, is almost brilliant in fact. For one thing, the word is given a favourable positive meaning. I have always felt that the word "normalisation," even when used in connection with Israel, should not be seen as subversive, pejorative, and negative as some would have us believe. What is wrong with having something abnormal become normal? When the causes for tension and conflict among nations (all nations) in today's world are eliminated, the inevitable thing, the normal thing, for relations among them is to become normal. The slogan just mentioned is interesting, in other words, because it restores to the word "normalisation" the positive, favourable and noble sense inherent in it, thus turning the tables against the negative, pejorative use the word has acquired in our political discourse for the past three decades.

For another, the use of the term is accurate. Arab-Arab relations are, now as well as for the most part of the past half century (since the independence of most Arab states, that is) anything but normal. Forget the tensions, wars of words, skirmishes, and (even) feelings of hostility among the so-called Arab brethren, which we have witnessed periodically and at times consistently throughout the past five decades. Tensions, wars of words, skirmishes, and feelings of hostility are obvious examples of the abnormality of Arab relations. Take the subtle, and more important, levels of it, however: unnecessary border hassle, agreements which get signed but are not implemented or followed through effectively, potentially rewarding projects which remain at the level of discourse, lack of communication among educational institutions (not just the political), lack of cooperation among Arab econo-

mists, industrialists, scientists, sociologists, researchers, and so on and so forth.

What the slogan is calling for is the normalisation (i.e. the realisation) of the many mutual or joint aspirations, hopes, dreams, plans, strategies, projects, etc. which remain in the realm of the abnormal (i.e. the unrealised or unrealisable).

Furthermore, the term denotes a sense of both accuracy and realism which is missing in most (if not all) of the other terms we use. There is something deceptive and false (though attractive and appealing) about the use of terms like unity, solidarity, cooperation, integration, and coordination in connection with Arab relations. The use of "normalisation" is more urgent, more realistic, more logical and more correct. In other words, before Arab countries begin to talk about Arab unity, solidarity, integration, cooperation, and coordination, they must first and foremost normalise their relations. Let us, in reconstructing Arab-Arab relations, begin at both the humbler and natural level of normalisation. There was a time, when the good old Mideast peace process was doing well (before the advent of the present Israeli government), when the relations of some Arab countries with Israel (and one says this with a grain of salt) were better than those between many Arabs themselves. "Normalisation," in other words, is the first — both natural and normal — thing that the Arab countries need to embark on before they think about anything that goes beyond it.

I like the slogan precisely because it asks us to think about reconstructing Arab-Arab relations in a way and on a base which has not been present in our minds, apparent and basic though it may seem. Normalisation of Arab relations is perhaps exactly what we need at this point in time, more than at any time before.

As to how our aspiring parliamentarian is to go about realising such noble and crucial goal is beyond me.

## Murky nature of Algeria's conflict stymies search for a solution

*Civilians are caught up in violence, they don't understand and international observers wonder which side is which*

By John Lancaster

ALGIERS — The killers took their time.

For nearly four hours, they laid waste to the neighbourhood of Bentalha, moving methodically from street to street and selecting their victims from a list, according to two witnesses and Algerian press accounts. Breaching locked doors with homemade bombs, they used knives and axes to slaughter entire families, including many children. Then they carried off whatever valuables they could find.

Gunfire and explosions were clearly audible to residents of neighbouring Baraki, less than three kilometres away, where hundreds of soldiers occupy a fortified compound. But the soldiers stayed put. As many as 214 civilians died.

The massacre on Sept. 23 was not an isolated incident. On three nights in the last two months, large numbers of armed men, sometimes accompanied by women, have entered neighbourhoods on the outskirts of Algiers, slaughtering hundreds of men, women and children without interference from security forces that sometimes were within earshot of the victims' screams. Scores more have died in smaller attacks in the farm towns and dreary high-rise suburbs south of the capital.

Government officials say that the killings were carried out by Islamic militants seeking to overthrow the military-backed government, and that mines laid outside targeted neighbourhoods prevented the security forces from intervening. But many Algerians are sceptical of those claims, accusing the security forces of abetting the violence, or at least tolerating it, to discredit the militants.

Unprecedented in scale, savagery and proximity to the capital, the bloodshed has prompted talk of foreign intervention to end a

war that has killed tens of thousands of people since the government cancelled elections that Islamic fundamentalists were poised to win in 1992.

But the search for a solution is complicated by the murky nature of the violence. Ethnic wars in Bosnia-Herzegovina or Rwanda have had a certain logic. The Algerian conflict, by contrast, involves rival groups of Islamic extremists, criminal elements and a secretive military-backed government that is said to be split between "conciliators," who favour a political settlement, and "radicals," who seek a military solution.

"I'm not sure outsiders can play a constructive role," a Western diplomat said. "As long as the situation on the ground is so fractious and so murky, I mean, whose heads are we supposed to be banging together?"

Making matters even more complicated is the security situation, which inhibits independent investigation by diplomats, human rights organisations or foreign journalists, who cannot leave their hotels without armed guards.

Many Algerians are baffled by the violence, which has caused residents to sleep outside police stations.

"I really don't know much about what is happening," said Moustafa Bouchachi, an attorney for Abdelkader Hachani, one of the leaders of the outlawed Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), the country's main political opposition group. "It's a mystery even for me."

A week of interviews with diplomats, human rights lawyers, Algerian journalists and survivors of three large massacres on the outskirts of Algiers turned up no evidence of direct government involvement in the killing. Survivors of massacres at Bentalha and Sidi Rais, where as many as 511 civilians died on Aug. 28,

specifically identified their attackers as "Afghans," shorthand for Islamic mujahidin, or holy warriors, who fought the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan in the 1980s. But in interviews outside the hearing of journalists' security escorts, two survivors of the Sidi Rais massacre were angry and befuddled that soldiers did not heed their cries for help. "We shouted until our throats were dry," said one woman before a male relative arrived and ended the conversation.

Civilians have borne the brunt of the violence, which erupted in 1992 after the government cancelled legislative elections.

After the government outlawed the FIS, several armed groups split off from it. The best known are the Islamic Salvation Army and the Armed Islamic Group (GIA), the more violent of the two. Its targets have included journalists, foreigners, artists, secular intellectuals — even schoolgirls who refused to wear the Muslim headscarf known as the bejeb. Spokesmen for the Islamic Salvation Army say the group does not kill civilians and restricts attacks to government or military targets.

On the other side of the conflict are the security forces and civilian militias, called Patriot groups, that have been implicated in thousands of extrajudicial killings and disappearances in the last five years.

In the last two years, the character of the violence has broadened to include large-scale massacres of civilians that in recent months have reached the outskirts of the capital. Most of the killing is centred on the Metidja region, a fertile farming belt just south of Algiers, where orchards and crumbling French-colonial villas are succumbing to an ugly sprawl of industry and cheaply built apartment blocks.

While diplomats assume that the GIA is behind most of the attacks, they

say its motives remain a mystery. The Metidja region voted overwhelmingly for the FIS in 1991 elections and traditionally has provided the militants with most of their manpower and logistical support.

That has led to widespread speculation that headline elements of the security forces have infiltrated the GIA and are encouraging its members to carry out the massacres to deepen splits in the movement and to rule out any possibility of compromise between the government and the FIS.

That theory gained currency last month when the Islamic Salvation Army declared a ceasefire, fuelling rumours of secret negotiations between the government of President Liamine Zerroul, who is considered a relative moderate, and representatives of the Islamic militants.

Another theory is that the GIA is targeting the region to punish FIS supporters who have switched allegiances to the government, which has provided some of the area's residents with weapons. Some analysts suggest that the movement also provides cover to those settling personal scores and mercenaries engaged in land grabs and criminal activities.

More puzzling is the apparently passive response of the security forces to massacres that in some cases have occurred almost literally under their noses.

In Sidi Rais, for example, the killing took place within a few hundred yards of an army garrison, a portion of which is visible from one of the streets where much of the killing occurred. When the shooting started, several hundred residents fled on foot to the garrison, where they were given shelter in an adjacent villa, according to an older woman in a magenta robe who would not give her name.

The Washington Post

### LETTERS

#### Fact and fiction

To the Editor:

UNDER THE title "Scholar challenges biblical myths" (Jordan Times, Oct. 21), presented by Clair Brandabur, we were led through a largely unsubstantiated theory that proposed to debunk a great body of solid archaeological research that supports the accuracy of the Old Testament text. Much of this body of truth has been conceded by many archaeologists over the past few decades who at one time floated their theories out there, only to have them refuted in the light of modern archaeological discoveries. Many of these archaeologists, contrary to what we read in the article, have little interest in the "validity of the Old Testament." The archaeologist W.F. Albright, we are supposed to believe, "interpreted his findings in the light of Christian readings of the Old Testament prophecy." This is interesting, as Albright himself was brought up on the Wellhausen theory which discounted much of the validity of the Old Testament. One suspects that the people who push some of these theories are influenced more by a political agenda than anything else.

The issue is not the factuality of the Old Testament text, but rather if present day Zionists have the right to go for a "land grab," sanctioned by the ancient text. There are many Christians, myself included, who would vigorously contest this. It is a matter of interpretation of the text, not the validity of the text.

In conclusion, I would say that if these are "biblical myths," then the author, by extension calls into question the validity of the Holy Koran also, which verifies God's deliverance of the Israelites from Egypt under Moses, the Exodus, the entrance into Canaan, and the kingdoms of David and Solomon.

Bob Robertson  
 Box 4105  
 Amman

#### Individual charity not enough

To the Editor:

I REFER to the article "Poverty is painful," by Jomana Wael Karadshah (Jordan Times, Oct. 12, 1997) and cannot but agree more that poverty in Jordan is beyond any doubt a socio-economic phenomenon that reflects sadly on our community life as a whole. Jordanians, usually compassionate by nature, feel sympathetic towards the less fortunate and normally demonstrate their support in a variety of ways. The sight of young children selling gum, cigarettes, other items or simply begging is not only degrading but is also fully contradicting all efforts and policies towards progress and social development. Concerned citizens have voiced their opinion and social workers have looked into the matter, by trying to investigate for instance, why youngsters hang out in the streets when they should be at school where they actually belong?

I am not aware of any specific statistics as a result of a study conducted in this field. However, I know for certain that most street dwellers ironically prefer to be there instead of attending school or staying at home, which only adds to the family's economic hardships. As a matter of fact the "street boys" have hardly attended school or most probably have never been to one. Poor families see their children as potential bread earners at a very early age. As a result young boys and girls are forced to live on the streets and embark on a tough social obligation, namely help their needy families make ends meet, regardless of the everyday danger they are exposed to. Poverty thus forces frustrated parents to exploit their own children and deprive them of their basic rights to education and security.

A question poses itself here: Can individual compassion and pity be a solution to this continuous growing problem which has serious social consequences? Giving few mickles away certainly wouldn't harm most people. Individual charity would encourage the authorities to stay idle and not do what should be done to upgrade the standard of living for the average Jordanian, eliminate acute poverty cases, implement social change through education for all and create room for the application of the U.N. charter regarding the protection of children's basic rights.

Mrs. Rumiana M. Nuselbeh  
 Amman







# Jordan, Israel push major border schemes

By Suleiman Al Khalidi  
Reuters

AMMAN — Jordan said Wednesday that Israel had agreed to proceed with ambitious development schemes on the Jordan Rift Valley border as a potent symbol of the benefits of peace.

"We will meet soon shortly, either next week or the following to start some of the projects in addition to the master plan of the Jordan Rift Valley," Water and Irrigation Minister Munther Haddadin said on his return from Israeli after lengthy talks with Israeli Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon on Tuesday.

The projects include industrial parks, tourism, complexes and agricultural ventures. The showpiece is the \$5 billion "Red-Dead Canal" through the desert from the Red Sea to the Dead Sea, the lowest point on earth.

The 190-kilometre canal would generate hydro-electric power to desalinate water, helping to reduce the conflict over scarce water supplies, and saving the Dead Sea from gradual evaporation at current rates of inflow.

Jordan views the Red-Dead Canal project as the backbone of development of the whole Jordan Rift Valley region and the only sustainable way to resolve its worsening water shortage.

It also sees it as a practical and symbolic cementing of the 1994 peace treaty. "It generates sweet water and opens up desert territory for economic activity," Mr. Haddadin told Reuters in an interview.

U.S. Harza Engineering recently completed a Jordan Valley masterplan after two half years. Dr. Haddadin said U.S. company Bechtel was evaluating the whole masterplan after a final review of the Red-Dead Canal project was made in September.

Dr. Haddadin said he found the Israeli side more serious than any time before about a Jordanian proposal to set up a jointly run authority to manage the Jordan Rift Valley Development schemes, an integral part of the plan.

He compared the joint authority to similar bodies which administer rivers such as the Rhine and the Danube in Europe. But Dr. Haddadin cautioned that most of the Jordan Rift Valley projects would take years to complete. Apart from huge financial hurdles, many were still at the feasibility stage and still faced engineering and design challenges.

Dr. Haddadin said Israel and Jordan would have to jointly lobby donors and multilateral agencies to finance the canal and the larger infrastructure projects, while also promoting smaller private sector ventures to global investors. "The Israelis" have responded to our calls for joint efforts to attract finance of such a huge project," he said.

"It requires huge financial resources but if the environment was attractive for capital the investment will come," he added.

Dr. Haddadin said he and Mr. Sharon also touched on other joint projects such as a tourism park and other agricultural projects.

An industrial zone in northern Jordan could start early next year and work could begin in tourism and agriculture projects at the same time.

"We hope once the movement begins from one, two, three projects it will snowball," he added.

But Dr. Haddadin admitted that setbacks in Middle East peace had slowed down joint investments and the pace of progress on the Jordan Rift Valley projects.

"If the Palestinian track was moving and the Syrians open along with the Lebanese, the attraction of investment to the region would have been much more than this," he said.

# Arab countries urged to draw up strategy to combat capital flight

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Arab states need to draw up a strategy to modernise their stock markets to lure back hundreds of billions of dollars in investments held overseas, a top Arab banker has said.

"Our Arab stock markets are still suffering from a shortage of advanced financial instruments which could attract capital and of specialised bodies that could work for modernisation of financial and banking services," said Mahmoud Abdul Aziz, chairman of the Beirut-based Union of Arab Banks.

"What we need now is a comprehensive development strategy. But it should take into account the fact that government restrictions on share-dealing, the absence of market mechanisms and the general weakness in the bourses have always prevented any development and aggravated capital flight," he wrote in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) business weekly Emirates Today.

Mr. Abdul Aziz gave no figures on Arab investments abroad but independent estimates put them at between \$600 billion and \$800 billion. They are concentrated in the West in bank deposits, real estate and stocks.

Several Arab countries have embarked on reforms to heal their economies and lure back some of the overseas funds which are needed to finance domestic development.

But nearly half the Arab League's 22 members are still without official stock exchanges while some of those with floors have kept them closed to foreigners. Other members have given a limited access to foreign investors.

"We are taking measures continuously to develop our stock exchange to attract domestic and foreign capital as part of reforms," said Mahmoud Al Jarwani, executive president of the Omani Muscat Securities Market.

"But more work is needed. Some Arab markets have a long way to go in the modernisation process, including the investment instruments and the infrastructure of the markets," he told AFP by telephone.

More than 1,000 banks and companies trade their shares in the Arab stock markets, with their total capitalisation standing at around \$125 billion at the end of June. Nearly 70 per cent of the capital is based in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states of Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE.

Sharedealing in most Arab capital markets has been cramped by political uncertainty, high government ownership, restriction of share ownership to nationals and a general tendency for long-term investment.

Arab governments have often come under fire for failing to reform fiscal policies that could enable banks and other financial institutions to upgrade their services to cope with banking developments worldwide.

"Some Arab banks are still sticking to the traditional commercial services in their operations while others lack awareness of the modern investment instruments in the stock markets," Mr. Abdul Aziz said.

"For all those reasons, our markets have plunged into a vicious cycle of weakness and failure to build a base capable of attracting capital," he added.

"The time has come for change in order to create the right investment climate and ensure the return of our huge funds in foreign markets," he concluded.

## HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23, 1997

By Linda C. Black, Tribune Media Services, Inc.

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) Everything slows down today, including, for some people, walking and speech. If you're having trouble thinking of the right thing to say, that's your excuse. You are lucky, though. You don't even have to talk about it anymore. Just get out there and do what's necessary.

**TAURUS:** (April 20 to May 20) Yesterday, the action was fast-paced. Today you'll have to think deliberately while acting quickly. An intimate conversation, in the privacy of your own home, will help clear up an old misunderstanding. You'll finally get to the truth of the matter. Don't worry, nobody dies.

**GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 21) Your workload is about to increase dramatically. Don't be pushed around by the currents of fate; take matters into your own hands. Watch your health during the coming few weeks. Since you'll be working harder, you might get stressed. A long walk or drive in the country will do wonders.

**MOON CHILDREN:** (June 22 to July 21) You're luckier than usual in love affairs, children and gambling. Today, however, that luck may not be apparent. Schedule a discussion with your sweetheart tonight. Don't be frustrated if it takes a while to make things happen. It's not a bad idea to do a little planning anyway.

**LEO:** (July 22 to August 21) This is potentially a stifling time of year for you. Make it stimulating instead. Somebody you live with wants a lot more of your attention than you've been able to give. You're up to the challenge. Go into battle armed with your sense of humour and you'll both triumph.

**VIRGO:** (August 22 to September 22) It's getting much easier to master next. You need to deal with a private matter and you can't put it off much longer. You'll find out what it is today. The person who wants it done will draw it to your attention.

**LIBRA:** (September 23 to October 22) You have the opportunity of making more money than you ever thought possible. You'll also think of a lot of ways to spend it, and you don't even have it yet! Resist the urge to splurge. Do more research first. With planning, you'll make your resources last a lot longer.

**SCORPIO:** (October 23 to November 21) You have even more enthusiasm, power and determination than usual. You're pretty much unstoppable, except for today. Just wait; your chance will come. If the boss you're with won't listen to your brilliant plans, go find somebody to work for who will.

**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 21) During the next several weeks, your focus is on completion. You're not prone to believing in fantasies. You're not very good at keeping secrets, either. Today, do both. You may have worries and fears, too. Refuse to empower them and they'll float away.

**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to January 20) Everything is getting solid. You had such a flurry of activity for so long, you thought it was going to be like that forever. Well, it wasn't. Now, things are the way they're going to be for a while. In a way, it's a relief. Take what you've got and start planning your next move.

**AQUARIUS:** (January 21 to February 19) You're a very solid, dependable person. You have a different approach to how things should be handled, though. This will show up today in your interpersonal relationships. Take things one step at a time. Stop fighting and listen to the other person.

**PISCES:** (February 20 to March 20) It's a very hectic workday. With concentration, you can achieve great things. You will be trying ideas you've never thought possible. And you'll be making them happen. Don't try to do it all today; you have several weeks. Just relax. Take things one at a time.

Birthstone of October: Opal — Tourmaline

## HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY, OCTOBER 24, 1997

By Linda C. Black, Tribune Media Services, Inc.

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) During the sun's transit through Libra, you formed partnerships. They were in the area of business and romance. Basically, they're just special relationships between you and another person. During Scorpio, focus on the money you share. Today, be light about it.

**TAURUS:** (April 20 to May 20) It's getting much easier to make good decisions. Some of them may happen without much effort. Sit back and watch. You and your partner will take notes and make your move when the right moment comes. It's also a good day to go shopping for something.

**GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 21) Are you starting to find it easier to concentrate? It's not a natural feeling. You have to watch everything, so you can take quick action when it's needed. Now, you're developing other skills. While in Scorpio, you'll learn how to pick one topic and focus on it.

**MOON CHILDREN:** (June 22 to July 21) Take your time concerning a purchase for a loved one or child. Money is asked for a raise in pay. Or get a better job. You are an extremely valuable and talented person. Remind your boss of that. Besides, you need more money so you can take better care of your family. That usually works, for you.

**LEO:** (July 22 to August 21) You'll need all your courage and enthusiasm to hold out against a stubborn adversary. What's going on? Does your kid want the complete Darth Vader outfit at a cost of \$159.95? By spending your time, talent and creativity instead, you can make something even better.

**VIRGO:** (August 22 to September 22) You might notice that everything takes about three times as long as usual. That's OK. The decisions you make now might have to last you for a long time. Don't rush into anything. Consult with somebody, in private, who has access to the need. You avenue to success may be just around the corner.

**LIBRA:** (September 23 to October 22) You could be slightly inhibited financially, but the rest of your life should be going very well. Who needs money anyway? Tonight, get together with your neighbours. It helps the whole town become a safer place and you've got some really near people living around you. Get to know them better.

**SCORPIO:** (October 23 to November 21) You can't have everything you want quite yet. You can have some of it, though. It looks like an excellent day to ask for a raise. You're so lucky, you might get it without asking at all. But don't take that risk. Might as well cinch the deal while you have the conditions in your favour.

**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 21) Take care of private matters during the next few weeks. If you don't, you'll have to deal with the consequences. You are enthusiastic and confident. Soon you'll have more patience. Watch out for that frivolous tendency. Don't overlook something that absolutely must get done today.

**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to January 20) You are a strong leader. You can make amazing things happen. First, organise all your friends, relatives and business associates. Then, you motivate them to come up with ideas for making more money. Promise them a percentage of the action.

**AQUARIUS:** (January 21 to February 19) You're going to have to relax. If you don't, nothing will get done. Everyone seems to be in an adversarial frame of mind, including you. A compromise will be necessary. Let your friends convince you that this whole thing is not as important as you've made it out to be.

**PISCES:** (February 20 to March 20) One of the decisions you might want to make has to do with your job. Is it time for you to get a little more money? If so, bring that up to the boss today. He or she will be in a generous mood. You'll get lots of good advice and emotional support from a friend who lives far away.

Birthstone of October: Opal — Tourmaline

## THE Daily Crossword

ACROSS

- Overpriced
- Broadcast
- Lined up
- Snack
- Update
- Popular surfing site
- Key fissure
- To — and a bone...
- Ruhr Valley city
- Newspaper
- VIPs
- Anti-alcohol go.
- Needlefish
- Help-wanted ad abbr.
- Born as
- Ambassador's employer
- It makes you a little numb
- Wrestling match, e.g.
- Chiang — shek
- Collection
- Year in Spain
- Youngster's sch.
- Jabber
- Scottish landowner
- African grassland
- Newspeak
- Custom-made
- Reptilian pet
- Renouance
- Kind of gravy
- Nighttime fear
- Ascends

by Chuck Deodene

DOWN

- "The Odyssey" temptress
- Lulus
- "World" ( sitcom)
- Take the wheel
- 1984 Olympics host
- Flock females
- Attempted
- Tin Tin
- Judicial proceedings
- do well

11 Begone!

12 Metal alloyed with steel

13 Adler's foe

14 Asian holiday

20 Peace of mind

24 Wavy painting?

26 Patron saint of France

27 Coup — (revolt) live...

31 "Loat" playwright Joe

32 Like a race-based study

34 Quench

35 Add up

36 Having success

37 Chess champ, once

38 Chest muscle, for short

39 Convened

46 Free-for-all

48 "As You Like It" forest

50 Caribbean isle

51 "Didn't We Almost Have a?"

52 Acres Taylor

53 Exasperated comments

55 Sluggish

56 Apothecary dose

58 Swine

59 Bar bill

60 Film's Olivia D'

61 Greek letter

## Peanuts

MY DAD SAYS WE CAN'T AFFORD TO KEEP BUYING YOU NEW SUPER DISHES...

HE SAYS HE MAY HAVE TO REMORTGAGE OUR HOUSE AND HIS BARBER SHOP...

I DON'T KNOW. HE MAY JUST BE JOKING.

I CAN'T LAUGH WHILE I'M EATING...

CHIPS

## Andy Capp

I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF YOUR ORDERS! AWAY FROM YOU I'LL BE ABLE TO MAKE MY OWN DECISIONS!

AND HE WILL — BY THIS EVENING HE'LL HAVE DECIDED TO COME BACK HOME.

## Mutt'n'Jeff

IT'S THE LATEST IN DUST MOPS, LADY! HERE, TRY IT!

THANKS!

## THE BETTER HALF.

GLASBERGEN

"I don't like being in a bad mood, but it's the only thing I'm really good at!"

## JUMBLE.

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

HOUGD

TYPAR

WETING

LORMAN

Print answer here: \_\_\_\_\_ TO \_\_\_\_\_

Saturday's Jumbles: BRASS HURRY SPLEEN POLITE

Answer: To get good at climbing you must — LEARN THE ROPES



**Abdoun Galleria Theatres**

*It's not just a Movie Theatre, it's a mind blowing revolution*

**TONIGHT**

**Galleria 1** **Galleria 2**

**DOUBLE TEAM**

3:30 6:00 8:30 10:45

3:30 6:30 8:30 10:30

## IFC's investments in six Jordanian companies amount to \$86.3 million

By Ghaila Ahul  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The International Finance Corporation (IFC) has investments amounting to \$86.3 million in six Jordanian companies, IFC Executive Vice President Jannik Lindbaek told reporters Wednesday.

Mr. Lindbaek said the IFC, a member of the World Bank Group and the world's largest multilateral source of equity and loan financing for private sector projects in developing countries, approved two projects in financial year 1997.

A \$25 million investment have financed the building of a 230-room hotel and health care facility on the eastern shores of the Dead Sea, he said.

The project, owned by the Business Tourism Company, "is one of the first international standard hotels to be built on the Jordanian shores of the Dead Sea and IFC's second hotel in the area," Mr. Lindbaek added.

This project, he said, "will help diversify tourism activity in the region by contributing towards the development of a new tourist destination

and by attracting the growing international health tourism market. Furthermore, it will generate foreign exchange and create jobs."

The second investment was for \$10 million that financed the expansion of El-Zay company which manufactures men's suits, Mr. Lindbaek indicated.

This project, he said, will improve the Jordanian textile industry and encourage the transfer of know-how as well as upgrade local skills.

IFC's investments in Jordan in 1997 covered the following six major companies: Al Hikma Pharmaceuticals, Jordan Mobile Telecom Company, Al Keena Hygienic Paper and Mill, Model Aluminium Industries, Jordan Chemicals Company and Zara Investments.

Since 1994, IFC has invested a total of \$110.4 million in eight Jordanian companies, said Mr. Lindbaek.

"Our strategy is to focus on priority areas, including tourism, industry, agribusiness, mineral resources and capital markets," added Mr. Lindbaek, who is in Jordan on a four-day visit, aimed at



Jannik Lindbaek

consulting the government and industry leaders on IFC's activities and projects in the Kingdom.

Mr. Lindbaek emphasised that the IFC was pleased with Jordan's economic growth, and expressed interest to seek more investment opportunities in the Kingdom's tourism sector.

He said that in this sector, IFC approved investments in three projects, including the first two hotels and spa complexes on the Dead Sea.

The IFC, Mr. Lindbaek added, will continue to

invest in Jordan's industrial sector, since the amount invested in the country's mineral resources reached \$30 million.

Mr. Lindbaek said IFC also hopes to establish the first joint venture leasing company in Jordan as soon as legislation in this regard is passed by the Lower House.

Lyad Malas, another IFC representative, referred to the importance of leasing investments, saying it is a process that facilitates financing of small and medium-size enterprises through the provision of equipment, which will be mortgaged to the lending party.

"We are also looking at the insurance sector as well as mutual funds. And finally we will continue to support key areas which can help make the economy more competitive internationally and draw on Jordan's comparative advantages of skilled human resources and high quality raw material," Mr. Lindbaek stated at a meeting held by the Amman Chamber of Industry (ACI).

ACI Chairman Khalid Abu Hassan briefed Mr. Lindbaek on Jordan's industrial sector, saying the coun-

try has succeeded in creating about 450 linkages with multi-national and major enterprises in Europe, the United States and other countries and in covering joint ventures in production, equity sharing, licensing, franchise trade marks, consultancy services, and know-how.

"Financial support from IFC will certainly augment and boost the industry and tourism in Jordan sector and will assist in integrating the Jordanian economy with the world economy," said Mr. Abu Hassan.

According to an IFC statement, the corporation has expanded its activities in the region in recent years in response to a more favourable environment for private sector development.

Since 1993, the IFC has invested in 17 projects for a total of \$437 million in Lebanon. Of this amount, \$231 million was for IFC's own account.

Since 1994, the IFC has invested \$98.7 million in eight projects in the West Bank and Gaza. Of this amount \$87.2 million was for IFC's own account, the statement added.

## REUTERS REUTERS

### The Business of Information

| Major Currencies & Cross Rates Prices as at 22/10/97 19:23 |        |        |        |         |         |         |         |         |        |
|--|--------|--------|--------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|--------|
|  | USD    | DEM    | GBP    | CHF     | JPY     | ITL     | FRF     | ESP     | YEN    |
| US Dollar  | 1.7827 | 0.6128 | 1.4790 | 120.80  | 1.3910  | 1741.00 | 2.0088  | 5.9750  |        |
| DE Mark  | 0.5889 |        | 0.3494 | 0.9295  | 67.63   | 0.7799  | 978.17  | 1.1288  | 3.3917 |
| GB Sterling  | 1.6324 | 2.9135 |        | 2.4137  | 197.29  | 2.2707  | 2842.01 | 3.2788  | 9.7536 |
| CH Franc   | 0.6761 | 120.60 | 0.4143 |         | 81.63   | 0.9411  | 1176.75 | 135.80  | 0.0426 |
| JP Yen   | 0.0083 | 1.4772 | 0.5075 | 1.2240  |         | 1.1527  | 14.43   | 166.41  | 4.9515 |
| CA Dollar  | 0.7188 | 1.2879 | 0.4408 | 1.0717  | 1.15    |         | 1225.85 | 1.4510  | 4.8163 |
| IT Lira  | 0.0006 | 1.0235 | 0.3517 | 0.0848  | 1445.30 | 0.7987  |         | 11.53   | 3.4310 |
| NL Guilder   | 0.4979 | 88.70  | 0.3048 | 73.54   | 80.01   | 0.6923  | 868.58  |         | 2.9740 |
| FR Franc   | 0.1674 | 0.2982 | 0.1024 | 24.7073 | 20.16   | 0.2327  | 33.59   | 33.5900 |        |

| Middle Eastern Currencies |        |        |         |        |        |        |        |         |        |
|---------------------------|--------|--------|---------|--------|--------|--------|--------|---------|--------|
|                           | USD    | JOD    | SAR     | BAH    | QAT    | KUW    | AES    | LB      | SY     |
| US Dollar                 | 1.7827 | 0.7090 | 3.7505  | 0.3770 | 3.6405 | 0.3042 | 3.6728 | 1536.00 | 3.3985 |
| Jordan Dinar              | 1.4104 |        | 3.2898  | 0.5317 | 5.1347 | 0.4251 | 5.1803 | 2198.43 | 4.7884 |
| Saudi Riyal               | 0.2666 | 0.1890 |         | 0.1005 | 0.97   | 0.0811 | 0.98   | 409.55  | 0.9061 |
| Bahraini Dinar            | 2.88   | 1.8807 | 9.8485  |        | 9.88   | 0.8070 | 9.74   | 4074.38 | 9.0748 |
| Qatar Dinar               | 0.2747 | 0.1948 | 1.0302  | 1.0302 |        | 0.0836 | 1.01   | 421.82  | 0.9335 |
| Kuwait Dinar              | 3.2871 | 2.3306 | 12.3282 | 1.2328 | 11.97  |        | 12.07  | 5048.98 | 0.9335 |
| Emirates Dinar            | 0.2723 | 0.1930 | 1.0212  | 1.0212 | 0.9912 | 0.0828 |        | 418.21  | 0.9253 |
| Lebanese/1000             | 0.85   | 0.4616 | 2.4417  | 0.2454 | 2.3701 | 0.1981 | 2.3911 |         | 2.2126 |
| Egyptian                  | 0.2942 | 0.2086 | 1.1038  | 0.1109 | 1.0712 | 0.0895 | 1.0807 | 451.96  |        |

| Energy |        |        |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
|--------|--------|--------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
|        | USD    | EUR    | GBP | CHF | JPY | ITL | FRF | ESP | YEN |
| Brent  | 19.87  | 19.33  |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| WTI    | 21.41  | 20.88  |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Bonny  | 19.87  | 19.33  |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Dubai  | 19.05  | 18.75  |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| UL Gas | 200.00 | 197.00 |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |

| Mid-East Currencies |        |         |         |         |         |     |     |     |     |
|---------------------|--------|---------|---------|---------|---------|-----|-----|-----|-----|
|                     | USD    | DEM     | GBP     | CHF     | JPY     | ITL | FRF | ESP | YEN |
| SA Riyal            | 0.2666 | 0.4785  | 0.16334 | 0.39407 | 32.174  |     |     |     |     |
| AE Dirham           | 0.2723 | 0.4856  | 0.16679 | 0.40241 | 32.8547 |     |     |     |     |
| KW Dinar            | 3.2871 | 5.86166 | 2.01369 | 4.85909 | 396.668 |     |     |     |     |
| BH Dinar            | 0.3770 | 4.73037 | 1.62486 | 3.92063 | 320.102 |     |     |     |     |
| CY Pound            | 1.9035 | 3.393   | 1.1857  | 2.8115  | 229.6   |     |     |     |     |

| Currency Deposit Rates (Bid) |      |      |      |      |      |     |     |     |     |
|------------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|
|                              | USD  | DEM  | GBP  | CHF  | JPY  | ITL | FRF | ESP | YEN |
| USD                          | 5.53 | 5.71 | 5.78 | 5.88 | 5.94 |     |     |     |     |
| GBP                          | 7.12 | 7.22 | 7.31 | 7.38 | 7.41 |     |     |     |     |
| JPY                          | 0.41 | 0.43 | 0.43 | 0.47 | 0.56 |     |     |     |     |
| DEM                          | 3.50 | 3.64 | 3.87 | 3.81 | 4.23 |     |     |     |     |
| FRF                          | 3.48 | 3.68 | 3.86 | 3.97 | 4.12 |     |     |     |     |
| CHF                          | 1.82 | 2.00 | 2.18 | 2.12 | 2.34 |     |     |     |     |
| ITL                          | 6.69 | 6.52 | 6.21 | 5.96 | 5.77 |     |     |     |     |

| Energy         |       |      |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
|----------------|-------|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
|                | USD   | EUR  | GBP | CHF | JPY | ITL | FRF | ESP | YEN |
| Coffee (c/lbs) | 154   | Spot |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Cocoa (c/lbs)  | 1637  | Spot |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Sugar (c/lbs)  | 285.2 | Spot |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Wheat (c/lbs)  | 139.7 | Spot |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Soya (c/lbs)   | 24.84 | Spot |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Tea (c/lbs)    | 154   | Spot |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Barley (c/lbs) | 0     | Spot |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Rice (c/lbs)   | 429   | Spot |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |

## Israel likely to start using Aqaba airport next month

By Tareq Ayyoub  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Israel has submitted a request to Jordan to operate two pilot flights weekly to Aqaba airport in line with a

memo of understanding that the two sides signed in August. Jordan's Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) Director General Jasir Zayyad said Wednesday.

Captain Zayyad said the request, submitted Tuesday,

demands operating two flights weekly starting from Nov. 11. He added that the Kingdom will respond to the Israeli demand today (Thursday).

"According to the memorandum, we cannot reject their

demand but the Jordanian approval is conditioned by Israeli compliance with the landing area in the memo," Captain Zayyad told the Jordan Times.

The top aviation official was

referring to an article in the memo which organises the landing of planes in the Aqaba airport.

On Aug. 31, Transportation Minister Bassam Saket signed with his Israeli counterpart Yitzhak Levy a memorandum that stipulates the launching of pilot flights to the Kingdom's southern airport as a step to transform the Aqaba airport into an international airport for joint use.

The agreement between the two sides also envisages permitting international flights, that target Israel's southern airports of Eilat and Uvda, to land at Aqaba airport.

Under the agreement, Jordanian and Israeli security agents can accompany passengers between Aqaba and Eilat without stopping at the border.

The agreement will facilitate the arrival of tourists to the Red Sea resorts of Aqaba and Eilat.


Captain Zayyad said the two weekly flights would not only allow Israel's national carrier planes to land at Aqaba airport, but also planes from international aviation companies.

The Israeli English daily, The Jerusalem Post, quoted Israel's transportation ministry Director-General Nahum Langenthal as saying that the two sides will begin using the Aqaba airport on Nov. 5.

The Israeli official admitted that there is still "legal problems" that need to be resolved before the launching of the pilot flights.

The newspaper reported that the first Israeli flights to the Jordanian airport are to be Arad and El Al direct flights from Europe, starting with four flights a week. Charter flights to the Uvda airport are to continue, the daily quoted Mr. Langenthal as saying.

On Tuesday, Acting Minister of State for Information Affairs Naser Jawzi told reporters that Israel was to be blamed for the delay in operating flights to the Kingdom's southern airport.

| AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET  |         |                          |                |       |      |         |         |        |        |
|---|---------|--------------------------|----------------|-------|------|---------|---------|--------|--------|
| HOUSING BANK CENTER AMMAN - SHERATANI   |         |                          |                |       |      |         |         |        |        |
| TELEPHONE: 607171 / 607179  |         |                          |                |       |      |         |         |        |        |
| ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR WEDNESDAY 22/10/1997                            |         |                          |                |       |      |         |         |        |        |
|  |         |                          |                |       |      |         |         |        |        |
| PART  | 12      | 12                       | COMPANY'S NAME | P / E | DIV. | NO. OF  | NO. OF  | VALUE  | OPEN   |
|   | HIGH    | LOW                      |                |       |      | SHARES  | SHARES  | TRADED | CLOSE  |
|   |         |                          |                |       |      | TRANS.  |         | JD     | PRICE  |
|   |         |                          |                |       |      |         |         |        | CHANGE |
| 346.000   | 244.000 | ARAB BANK                | 15.2           | 1.21  | 8    | 160     | 53000   | 332.00 | 2.00   |
| 2.340   | 1.680   | JOR. NATIONAL BK.        | 2              | 0.00  | 35   | 14962   | 27347   | 1.82   | 1.84   |
| 3.600   | 2.760   | BANK OF JORDAN           | 6.2            | 0.00  | 5    | 1962    | 5787    | 2.98   | 2.95   |
| 1.190   | 0.890   | MID. EAST INV. TR.       | 74.2           | 0.00  | 2    | 160     | 169     | 1.10   | 0.74   |
| 2.150   | 1.800   | INDUSTRIAL DEV. BK.      | 9.9            | 6.35  | 7    | 6150    | 15319   | 2.50   | 2.49   |
| 5.200   | 4.600   | THE HOUSING BK.          | 15.0           | 3.86  | 10   | 14683   | 73454   | 4.98   | 5.03   |
| 4.180   | 2.440   | JOR. KODATY BANK         | 12.1           | 0.00  | 9    | 4219385 | 1320665 | 3.12   | 3.12   |
| 1.050   | 740     | JOR. GULF BANK           | 4.5            | 9.21  | 5    | 30000   | 22800   | 7.76   | 7.76   |
| 4.050   | 3.430   | JOR. ISLAMIC BANK        | 14.2           | 3.43  | 52   | 22161   | 77583   | 3.46   | 3.50   |
| 3.900   | 3.080   | JOR. INV. FIN. BANK      | 24.7           | 0.00  | 9    | 11200   | 43116   | 3.85   | 3.84   |
| 1.910   | 0.890   | BEIT. AL-HAL (BEITRA)    | 6              | 16.30 | 3    | 300     | 276     | 94     | 92     |
| BANK SECTOR TOTALS INDEX: 236.73 *CHG: -0.32  |         |                          |                |       |      |         |         |        |        |
| 1.740   | 1.200   | ARABIAN SEAS INSR.       | 9.8            | 0.00  | 1    | 250     | 338     | 1.30   | 1.35   |
| 2.020   | 1.590   | JOR. FRENCH INSR.        | 5.3            | 7.98  | 2    | 1500    | 2818    | 1.89   | 1.88   |
| INSURANCE SECTOR TOTALS INDEX: 114.68 *CHG: +0.14                                     |         |                          |                |       |      |         |         |        |        |
| 2.050   | 1.550   | JOR. ELECTRIC PWR.       | 9.1            | 5.32  | 32   | 22200   | 41587   | 1.87   | 1.88   |
| 8.450   | 7.800   | JOR. HOTEL TOURISM       | 11.5           | 1.38  | 1    | 35000   | 280000  | 8.40   | 8.00   |
| 1.550   | 0.930   | MATL. PORTFOLIO          | 9              | 0.00  | 1    | 100     | 127     | 1.30   | 1.27   |
| 0.810   | 0.480   | JORDAN INTL. TRAD.       | 27.7           | 0.00  | 1    | 100     | 54      | 52     | 54     |
| 8.160   | 7.000   | ALRA'*                   | 14.0           | 6.41  | 2    | 200     | 1555    | 7.55   | 7.80   |
| 2.690   | 2.690   | ARAB INTL. INV. EDUC.    | 9.9            | 0.00  | 23   | 6600    | 25120   | 3.87   | 3.78   |
| 2.230   | 1.630   | UNIFIED CO.              | 8.3            | 6.29  | 16   | 5950    | 10457   | 1.77   | 1.75   |
| SERVICE SECTOR TOTALS INDEX: 111.64 *CHG: -0.30                                       |         |                          |                |       |      |         |         |        |        |
| 4.450   | 3.030   | JOR. CEMENT FACT.        | 22.1           | 3.25  | 60   | 24900   | 82844   | 3.26   | 3.28   |
| 1.050   | 0.810   | JOR. POTASH CO.          | 10.0           | 3.22  | 1    | 100     | 602     | 6.00   | 6.02   |
| 11.160  | 9.070   | JOR. PETROL REFINERY     | 10.7           | 8.07  | 16   | 3794    | 41802   | 11.04  | 11.02  |
| 4.700   | 3.040   | ARAB PHARM. INSR.        | 11.8           | 4.66  | 22   | 7240    | 31197   | 4.33   | 4.29   |
| 1.480   | 1.050   | BATTA INDUSTRIES         | 14.0           | 6.41  | 12   | 2400    | 1555    | 7.55   | 7.80   |
| 6.000   | 4.300   | DAR ALDAMA INV. TR.      | 14.2           | 4.31  | 21   | 18226   | 104596  | 5.66   | 5.80   |
| 3.850   | 2.220   | ARAB ALON IND.           | 5.8            | 10.04 | 6    | 8950    | 22373   | 2.80   | 2.49   |
| 740   | 450     | LIVESTOCK & POULTRY      | 10.4           | 0.00  | 2    | 1150    | 564     | 49     | 49     |
| 1.330   | 0.770   | NATIONAL STEEL IND.      | 9              | 0.00  | 2    | 1700    | 1294    | 7.79   | 7.77   |
| 1.770   | 0.510   | NATIONAL INDS.           | 9              | 0.00  | 5    | 1750    | 1015    | 57     | 58     |
| 1.200   | 0.      | INTERMED. PETRO. CHEM.   | 9              | 0.00  | 4    | 9250    | 4995    | 54     | 54     |
| 8.990   | 830     | JOR. SULPHO-CHEM         | 9              | 0.00  | 1    | 200     | 134     | 66     | 67     |
| 1.170   | 1.120   | ARAB PHARM. CHEM.        | 16.9           | 5.30  | 7    | 1350    | 1772    | 1.32   | 1.32   |
| 1.400   | 0.610   | FAWHER INVEST.           | 0              | 0.00  | 2    | 800     | 488     | 61     | 61     |
| 1.880   | 1.080   | UNIV. MODN. INDS.        | 11.8           | 0.00  | 8    | 33200   | 41168   | 1.24   | 1.24   |
| 1.460   | 0.890   | JOR. INDS. RESOURCES     | 11.8           | 11.36 | 5    | 1000    | 888     | 89     | 88     |
| 1.070   | 0.810   | JOR. NEW CABLE CO.       | 16.1           | 0.00  | 13   | 14100   | 12228   | 86     | 88     |
| 1.330   | 1.080   | INTL. TOBACCO            | 6.7            | 0.00  | 33   | 115000  | 138184  | 1.19   | 1.22   |
| 1.200   | 0.860   | UNION CH. & VEG.         | 50.9           | 0.00  | 1    | 500     | 560     | 1.12   | 1.12   |
| INDUSTRIAL SECTOR TOTALS INDEX: 116.16 *CHG: +0.31                                    |         |                          |                |       |      |         |         |        |        |
| GRAND TOTAL INDEX: 170.84 *CHG: -0.09   |         |                          |                |       |      |         |         |        |        |
| 446 4641673 14381488  |         |                          |                |       |      |         |         |        |        |
| PARALLEL MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR WEDNESDAY 22/10/1997                             |         |                          |                |       |      |         |         |        |        |
| 0.630   | 0.300   | CENTRAL GEN. STORAGE     | 9              | 0.00  | 2    | 10250   | 3380    | 32     | 33     |
| 0.810   | 0.380   | JOR. TRADE FAC.          | 10.4           | 0.00  | 11   | 16250   | 6338    | 39     | 39     |
| 1.600   | 0.660   | UNION INV. 501           | 9              | 0.00  | 7    | 3033    | 768     | 76     | 76     |
| 0.360   | 0.170   | JOR. PET. SEC.           | 9              | 0.00  | 9    | 24050   | 9650    | 37     | 37     |
| 0.950   | 0.610   | AL-DANKILAY 752          | 71.0           | 0.00  | 9    | 15700   | 7458    | 72     | 74     |
| 1.150   | 0.850   | UNITEO FOR FINAN. INV.   | 61.4           | 0.00  | 6    | 3000    | 3510    | 1.15   | 1.18   |
| 0.400   | 0.200   | JOR. INDS. MATCH-JERCO   | 9              | 0.00  | 10   | 14500   | 3195    | 23     | 23     |
| 0.690   | 0.470   | JOR. FOOD & MED.         | 9              | 0.00  | 1    | 750     | 353     | 47     | 47     |
| 0.540   | 0.380   | ARAB INTL. INV. TRD.     | 43.8           | 0.00  | 4    | 2000    | 760     | 39     | 38     |
| 0.750   | 0.400   | MATL. PORT. INDS. REMICO | 9              | 0.00  | 15   | 27350   | 11070   | 41     | 40     |
| 0.580   | 0.440   | MID. EAST CH. SEC.       | 14.4           | 2.86  | 1    | 1000    | 530     | 46     | 46     |
| 3.750   | 3.420   | ARAB STEEL PTES          | 28.4           | 2.86  | 1    | 10000   | 35000   | 3.50   | 3.50   |
| GRAND TOTAL 142 218172 121065   |         |                          |                |       |      |         |         |        |        |



# Australia urged to bid for 2010 World Cup

ADELAIDE (AFP) — FIFA secretary general Sepp Blatter on Wednesday encouraged Australia to bid for the 2010 World Cup finals.

Australia are one stage from qualifying for next year's finals in France, and Blatter, while inspecting Adelaide's Hindmarsh Stadium, a football venue for the 2000 Olympics, said Australia would be a logical candidate for the World Cup finals.

"Have a look at 2010. You are a young country and have young people here," he said.

"It's a real chance and Soccer Australia and all Australia should take this challenge to bid and ask for the World Cup."

Blatter said hosting the 2000 Olympics would prove Australia could stage a major event and given the style in which it has run two Youth World Cups (1981 and 1993) it would be a frontrunner in 2010 as FIFA looked to take the football showpiece around the world.

"If they can organise the Olympic Games, with more than 10,000 athletes they can do the World Cup with 32 teams and 1,000 athletes," he said.

France hosts next year's World Cup with Japan and South Korea sharing the 2002 finals.

"FIFA will always like to have its major competitions all around the world," Blatter said.

"That's why we are going with the 2002 World Cup to Asia. Then why not Africa and other continents?"

Soccer Australia chairman David Hill said Australia would jump at the chance to host the World Cup but said he would not rush because of the 30 million dollar (\$22 million) cost.

"We'll only go for it if we can win it and I'm hearing the messages loud and clear — there's a queue in front of us (for 2006) and I think Africa has a big claim," Hill said.

"If 2010 is the earliest we can win it, we'll go for 2010."

## England World Cup bid heads West

LONDON (AFP) — Sir Bobby Charlton will lead from the front as England's bid to land the 2006 World Cup steps up a gear.

The former Manchester United star is a key player in the Football Association team which is aiming to bring the global game's most glittering prize back to the country where football was founded.

Sir Bobby will leave on Thursday with Sports Minister Tony Banks on an eight-day promotional visit to the USA, Costa Rica and Trinidad and Tobago.

FA chief executive Graham Kelly and campaign chief Alec McGivern will complete the four-man delegation, which will have talks to senior FIFA figures in all three countries.

The trip is the first major international element of the bid, which was boosted by news Tuesday of a £3 million grant from the Sports Council.

Functions have been held at the British embassies in Paris, during last summer's Tournoi de France, and in Rome, hours before Glenn Hoddle's side booked their place in next summer's finals.

But the transatlantic trip signals the expansion and seriousness of the government-backed campaign, which will see the invitation to return the World Cup to "The Home of Football" posted across the globe.

McGivern explained: "We've held a number of successful international events so far but this will be the first time we've sat down with members of the FIFA Executive to talk about the strengths of our bid."

"The feedback we've had so far has been very positive, and people know there has never been a better time for the World Cup to come back to England."

"We're confident that our bid is the best in the world. The cornerstone of that bid is passion and professionalism and that is the message we want to take to these three vital FIFA countries."

Sports Minister Tony Banks welcomed the Sports Council's £3 million pound award as "a significant boost to our chances of hosting the finals in this country."

He said: "The Government is fully committed to bringing the 2006 World Cup to England. The redevelopment of Wembley Stadium which is being backed with a further £120 million of National Lottery funds, alongside some of the finest all-seater club stadiums in the world, would give us a clear headstart."

"I will be accompanying the FA on a number of visits to meet with FIFA representatives. I plan to emphasise the Government's commitment to our national game."

"Euro 96 an excellent example of this country's ability to host not just a major sporting occasion but to welcome people from all over the world to enjoy our rich and varied culture and to do all this without any serious booging."

"Football in this country is on a real high. Our major teams are attracting some of the greatest players from around the world to play in our Premier League. I hope that the quality of the game in this country will also excite FIFA representatives."

## Grand Prix rivals told to behave

LONDON (AFP) — Michael Schumacher and Jacques Villeneuve have been warned to cut out the rough stuff at Sunday's world championship-deciding European Grand Prix in Spain.

"Any hint of foul play will be severely dealt with," Formula One supreme Bernie Ecclestone told the Sun newspaper.

"The guilty party can expect to be a spectator in the first few rounds in 1998. We will also hit them where it really hurts — in their wallets — if they step out of line," added the Formula One Constructors' Association president.

Double world champion Schumacher will hand Ferrari their first world title for 18 years if he stays ahead of Villeneuve on Sunday.

"Accidents do occur in the heat of the moment, especially when there is so much at stake. But we don't want them to do anything silly," Ecclestone said.

"But past championships have been decided by one driver taking another off and it must not happen again," he warned.

Frenchman Alain Prost snatched the title in 1984 after shunting Brazilian Ayrton Senna off at the Japanese Grand Prix.

The following year at the same Suzuka circuit Senna took the crown back by ramming the Frenchman off at the first corner.

It is also widely felt that Schumacher bundled Britain's Damon Hill out of the 1994 finale in Australia to win his first world crown by a single point.

Schumacher leads this season's table by a point after Villeneuve had two points deducted when the Williams Renault ace failed to slow for a yellow flag in practice in Japan.

He was originally banned from the Japanese Grand Prix but raced after his team lodged an appeal. However, his fifth place was erased when the appeal was dropped following threats of a ban from Sunday's Jerez race.

No one has ever won an appeal against the FIA, motor racing's governing body, and some have even had their sentences increased.

Ecclestone said: "I'm not bothered who wins the title because whoever clinches the crown will have deserved it."

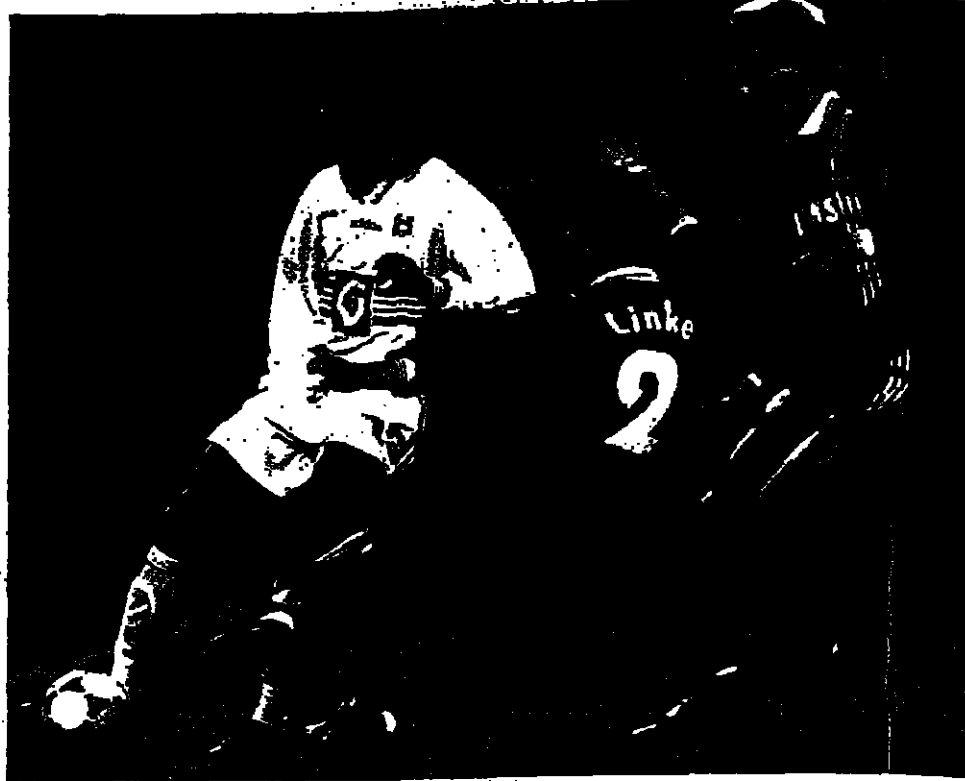
Jacques and Michael have been competitive all season and done a tremendous job making this a fantastic championship.

"Both have been unlucky. Jacques was penalised for not slowing down in Suzuka while Michael got a 10 second penalty for failing to obey a yellow flag in Austria."

"He was then taken out by his own brother Ralf in the following race."

"Things couldn't have worked out better because I really feared Jacques was going to walk it and have everything sewn up by Monza, which would have left four fairly meaningless races."

"The perfect scenario now is to have them both on the front row of the grid and see them battling all the way to the chequered flag — fairly."



Schalke's Thomas Linke and Anderlecht's James Debbah (L) fight for the ball watched by Ingo Anderbrugg (R) during their UEFA cup second round, first leg match in Gelsenkirchen (Reuters photo)

## Lyon and Strasbourg score huge upsets in UEFA Cup

PARIS (AFP) — Unheralded French clubs Lyon and Strasbourg upset two of their biggest names in world football Tuesday night in UEFA Cup second-round, first-leg matches.

Lyon scored a stunning 2-1 win away to Italian giants Inter Milan while Strasbourg trounced four-time European champions Liverpool 3-0 at home.

The expensively-assembled Inter team, including Brazilian star Ronaldo, were embarrassed by a Lyon team that have never even won the French championship.

Inter, UEFA Cup winners twice in the last six years, fell behind to a Bernard Gili goal after 22 minutes, equalised through Maurizio Ganz in the 69th but then conceded an 80th-minute penalty that was coolly converted by Alain Cavaglia.

It was the first defeat this season for Inter, UEFA Cup finalists last year.

"We didn't make a great start, perhaps the players were tired," said philosophical coach Gigi Simoni. "I've got nothing to reproach the players about."

Strasbourg, watched by a crowd of just 18,000 and without a major honour for 18 years until they won the French League Cup last season, got a fine goal in each half from livewire striker David Zitelli and also scored through a clever shot from young Dane Danni Conte as they humbled Liverpool.

Zitelli not only scored in the 21st and 64th minutes as he ripped the Liverpool defence to shreds; he also hit the woodwork. Conte netted in the 69th.

Strasbourg, wallowing in the bottom half of the French League, are looking for a double over British opposition after beating Glasgow Rangers in both legs of the first round.

Auxerre were a third French club to triumph, scoring a come-from-behind 3-1 win at home to the Greeks of OFI Crete. Antoine Sibierski and Stephane Guivarc'h (2) were the Auxerre marksmen — the second of Guivarc'h's goals coming from a final minute tap-in. OFI had two men sent off in the second half, including goalkeeper Chaniotakis for bringing down Bernard Diomedes.

The two other French combatants aiming for places in the last 16 went down. German international Thomas Hassler scored with two superb free-kicks as German club FC Karlsruhe recorded an impressive 2-0 win away to Metz.

Metz, second in the French League, were no match for Karlsruhe, for whom Hassler

scored with a pair of long-range free-kicks in the 13th and 38th minutes.

Steaua Bucharest of Romania won 1-0 with at home to Bastia by virtue of a 60th-minute header from Lavi Hrib, who was left unmarked in front of goal. The goal came just two minutes after Bastia had Polish international Piotr Swierczewski sent off.

Defending champions Schalke 04 had to settle for a 1-0 win at home to Belgian side Anderlecht, who face a possible European ban for bribery a decade ago.

FC Brugge of Belgium completely dominated the second half of their home match against another German side in VfL Bochum, but had to settle for a 1-0 victory.

Striker Gert Claessens had a 75th-minute header disallowed for pushing but Nordin Ibari grabbed a goal less than five minutes later, flicking home a header after a fine cross from Senegalese international Khalidou Fadija.

Ibari celebrated with a double somersault. Liverpool's compatriots Aston Villa did far better than their Premiership rivals, defending impressively for a 0-0 draw away to Athletic Bilbao in Spain's Basque region.

Sporting Braga of Portugal virtually sealed their spot in the third round with a thumping 4-0 triumph at home to Dynamo Tbilisi of Georgia thanks to goals from Brazilian Rodrigo, Cape Verde Islander Toni, Croatian Miladen Karoglan and Bruno.

Almost as impressive were the Spaniards of Atletico Madrid, who got a hit-trick from Italian striker Christian Vieri as they downed Greek club PAOK Salonika 5-2. Vieri also scored a hat-trick in the Spanish League at the weekend and is averaging over a goal a game since his move from Juventus.

Spartak Moscow got second-half goals from Andrei Tikhonov and Yegor Titov in a 2-0 win at home to Real Valladolid of Spain, while the Italians of Lazio had to settle for a 0-0 draw against Spartak's compatriots from Rotor Volgograd.

Both sides had clearcut chances but Lazio missed far more than Rotor and allowed the skilful Russians to stay in contention for the return leg in Rome's Olympic stadium.

The Danes from Aarhus drew 1-1 with Holland's FC Twente Enschede, while four-time European Cup Winners Ajax Amsterdam scrambled to a 1-0 win at home to Italians Udinese with Portuguese forward Dani, formerly with West Ham, their only scorer in the 28th minute with a header after a fine cross from Finnish star Jari Litmanen.



Finnish Ajax striker Jari Litmanen (L) eyes for the ball as he duels with Italian Udinese defender Alessandro Calori during their first leg, second round UEFA Cup match in Amsterdam. Ajax won the match 1-0 (Reuters photo)

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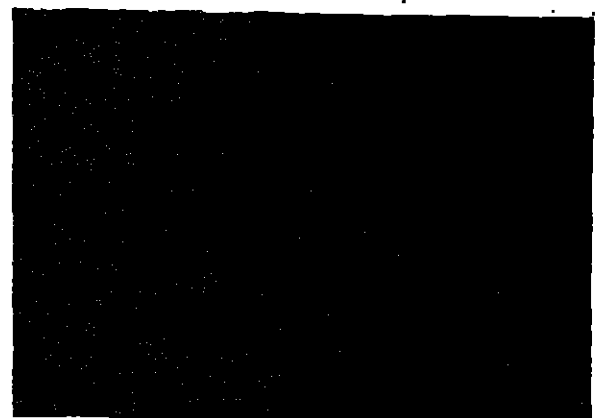
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### SPORTS IN BRIEF

#### Hingis, Henman to defend titles

SYDNEY (AFP) — World No. 1 Martina Hingis will defend her title at the Sydney International tournament in January along with men's champion Tim Henman. Hingis will defend her title against Monica Seles, Jennifer Capriati, Arantxa Sanchez Vicario and Venus Williams. Australia's world No. 3 Pat Rafter will head the men's draw with British star Henman, last year's runner-up Carlos Moya of Spain and former world number one Jim Courier. The tournament, a prelude to the Australian Open, is at the White City complex from January 11.

#### Gazza price too much for Palace

LONDON (AFP) — Crystal Palace boss Steve Coppell admitted Wednesday that the south London club may be priced out of the race to sign Rangers' star Paul Gascoigne. Coppell confirmed he had made an enquiry about the England midfielder who is rated at £4 million (\$6.5 million), but feels money could scupper any deal. "We have shown an interest in Paul Gascoigne," said Coppell. "Four to five weeks ago we made an enquiry just to see. From there on there was a snowball of media interest and speculation and now other clubs are heading the queue. Obviously given the finances involved, I don't think it will go any further." Coppell made similar comments about Attilio Lombardo before he later joined for £1.6 million from Juventus and he added: "But you never say never in football." Aston Villa and Tottenham are also jostling for the former Lazio star's signature, should he decide to quit Scottish champions Rangers.

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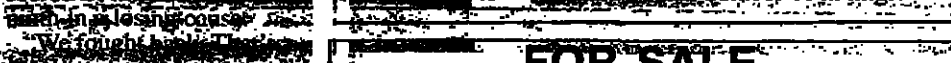
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| TODAY AT | <div>CINEMA TEL: 334144</div> <div>PHILADELPHIA "1"</div> <div>Kurt Russell ... in</div> <div>ESCAPE FROM L.A.</div> <div>Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30</div> | <div>CINEMA TEL: 334144</div> <div>PHILADELPHIA "2"</div> <div>Alicia Silverston &amp; Amy Heckerling ... in</div> <div>CLUELESS</div> <div>Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30</div> | <div>CINEMA TEL: 334144</div> <div>PLAZA</div> <div>Tommy Lee Jones &amp; Will Smith ... in</div> <div>MEN IN BLACK</div> <div>Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30</div> | <div>CINEMA TEL: 334144</div> <div>CONCORD</div> <div>Geena Davis &amp; Samuel Jackson ... in</div> <div>THE LONG KISS GOOD NIGHT</div> <div>(12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30)</div> <div>TOO HOT TO HANDLE</div> <div>Shows: 3:30, 6:00 only</div> | <div>CINEMA TEL: 079 334350</div> <div>GALLERIA 1</div> <div>ABDOUN</div> <div>Nicholas Cage ... in</div> <div>CON AIR</div> <div>Shows: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:45</div> | <div>CINEMA TEL: 079 334350</div> <div>GALLERIA 2</div> <div>ABDOUN</div> <div>Tim Allen... in</div> <div>JUNGLE 2 JUNGLE</div> <div>Shows: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30</div> | <div>Hisham Yanes Theatre</div> <div>TEL: 625155</div> <div>Watch out for the new play</div> <div>THE GOVERNMENT IN THE SERVICE OF PEOPLE</div> <div>Starring Hisham Yanes and Amal Dabbas</div> |
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**By Omar Karmi**  
*Special to the Jordan Times*

Speaking on behalf of the Royal Jordanian Equestrian Federation (RJEF) Captain Ghaleb Hiyari wished all competitors the best of luck, and expressed his gratitude to the Emirates Airlines of the UAE for sponsoring the event.

Recovering from squandering an even game will not be a problem, Cleveland reliever Mike Jackson said, using as evidence the



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Contract shall not exceed 5 years from the date of installing the first unit within 30 days from the date of installation.

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Contractor undertakes to

6. The duration of the contract shall not exceed 5 years commencing on the date of installing the first sign and not later than 30 days from the date of signing the contract.
7. The second party undertakes to pay an annual payment (investment) to the first party.
8. The second party undertakes to install the advertisement signs as agreed upon in accordance with the designs & models presented to CAA and approved on them in writings.

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## Netanyahu's taunting remarks in unguarded moment stir new furore

TEL AVIV (AP) — Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is supposedly a master of the media.

But he didn't see the open Israel radio microphone when he whispered to a leading rabbi Tuesday that Israeli doves have "forgotten what it means to be Jewish." And how could they seriously think they could rely on the Arabs for security?

His jeering remarks were broadcast at the top of the evening news, triggering an outcry from opposition leaders.

Having just survived a messy spy scandal that raised questions about his judgement and ability to govern, Mr. Netanyahu found himself once again on the defensive.

Opposition leader Ehud Barak said Mr. Netanyahu's latest blunder made it increasingly clear he was unfit to be prime minister.

"More and more people among Netanyahu's supporters are saying the job is too big for him," Labour leader Barak said.

Mr. Netanyahu fought back Wednesday, saying his words were taken out of context and

that he was the victim, not the opposition.

"The incitement against the government and the prime minister continues incessantly and without restraint," Mr. Netanyahu said on Israeli radio.

Mr. Netanyahu has long complained that Israeli media are biased against him. When under pressure, he has lashed out at journalists, claiming they are attacking him unfairly.

On Wednesday morning, Mr. Netanyahu had himself photographed amid dozens of backers outside his official residence in what appeared to be a carefully choreographed show of support.

The crowd cheered and chanted "Bibi, hooray" as the prime minister walked from his home to his car accompanied by his wife, Sarah. "We are proud of Bibi," read a sticker one elderly man had plastered onto his fedora.

On the way to the car, Mr. Netanyahu found time to admonish an Israel TV reporter, telling her: "You are not reporting facts. You are running commentary."

Mr. Netanyahu's relationship with journalists was not

always so antagonistic. Telegenic and a master of the 10-second sound bite, much of his eight-year climb from legislator to prime minister has been attributed to his skill in controlling the media.

But Mr. Netanyahu slipped Tuesday when he paid homage to Rabbi Yitzhak Kadouri, the spiritual leader of Sephardic Jews whose blessing during the May 1996 election campaign was crucial for Mr. Netanyahu's razor-thin victory over former Prime Minister Shimon Peres.

Whispering to Rabbi Kadouri while the Israeli radio microphone was open, Mr. Netanyahu belittled the opposition that has accused him of destroying his predecessor's achievements in Mideast peacemaking.

"The leftists have forgotten what it means to be Jewish," Mr. Netanyahu told the rabbi. "The leftists think that if we place our security in the hands of Arabs, the Arabs will look after us. We'll give them part of the land and they will look after us. Who has ever heard anything like it?"

Opposition leaders were outraged, saying Mr.

Netanyahu was once again inciting against the supporters of peace, as he did before the November 1995 assassination of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin by an ultranationalist Jew.

Even chief Rabbi Meir Lau, usually a supporter of Mr. Netanyahu, said Wednesday the prime minister must apologise for his remarks.

The latest furore came less than a month after Mr. Netanyahu was embroiled in scandal for ordering the assassination of a Hamas leader in Jordan. The attack failed, and Jordan, the country that has shown the warmest relations towards Israel in the Arab World, came close to cutting ties.

The operation earned Mr. Netanyahu the moniker "Israel's serial bungler" on the cover of the Economist magazine, and at home more questions were raised about his ability to govern.

Wrote commentator Gideon Samet in the Haaretz newspaper Wednesday: "In other countries, as the opposition here is fond of saying, a government with so many mistakes to its credit would have been toppled long ago."

## Iranian leader warns women against copying Western culture

TEHRAN (AFP) — Supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei warned Iranian women on Wednesday against embracing Western feminist ideas, saying it could promote sexual promiscuity in the Islamic Republic.

"A blind imitation of Western women is noxious," Ayatollah Khamenei told tens of thousands of women gathered at a stadium here to celebrate Women's week in Iran. "The feminist movement in the West has only brought sexual promiscuity."

Mr. Khamenei said he was unhappy with a trend of copying Western feminist trends in Iran and called on officials to keep watch to ensure activists conformed to "Islamic models of equality of sexes."

The ayatollah nevertheless demanded a "greater participation of women in

social and political affairs," while urging traditional families to allow their daughters to seek higher education.

After the 1979 Islamic revolution, the clergy pressed for a more traditional role for the female population in the interest of stronger family and forced women to appear in public in the all-encompassing Islamic covering.

The feminist movement in Iran, after lying dormant for more than a decade, has experienced a resurgence, with many devout Muslims drawing on more progressive teachings of Islam to promote women's status.

Their agenda, which often resembles feminist concerns in Western countries, has irked conservatives, who fear the new ideas could undermine traditional Islamic values. Women, wary of an intrusive estab-

lishment and hoping for greater freedom, played an instrumental role in the landslide election in May of President Mohammad Khatami, who has called for gender equality.

Besides Mr. Khatami, many other members of the clergy have called for a higher status for women within Islamic confines.

Such developments have led to a greater participation of women in politics, and the election of 13 female deputies and the appointment of a woman vice president.

But women are still barred from becoming a judge or president, and socially they face more restrictions than men.

Since the revolution, Iran has marked Women's week on the birth anniversary of Fatima, the daughter of Prophet Mohammad, which falls on Thursday.

## Article 19 says government muzzling Jordanian media

LONDON (J.T.) — The London-based Article 19 organisation, which defends press freedom said in a report released Wednesday that the government is muzzling the media by suspending publications and arresting journalists.

It noted that Jordan enjoys a "reputation, especially in the West, as one of the most progressive of Arab states, notably in terms of government accountability and respect for human rights." Agency France Presse reported.

But press freedoms there are being constantly eroded, Article 19 said.

Article 19 accused

Jordan of suspending 13 weekly publications, and said a 14th had been forced to close. The weeklies were the only papers which were truly independent, it said. The state controls most other publications or has a large stake in major dailies, it said.

It said at least 12 journalists had been detained and questioned for protesting against government censorship. Some were physically abused by police although the government claimed it was the journalists who attacked police, the organisation said.

Article 19 said several journalists were arrested

and detained for months last year on the pretext that they had carried out subversive activities.

The organisation called on the Jordanian government to cancel new legislation introduced in May this year which gives it the power to severely restrict press freedoms.

This press code gives the state powers to fine or suspend newspapers which ignore the new rules. It also requires weeklies to have a minimum capital of \$450,000, compared with \$22,500 previously. Daily newspapers have to have a capital of \$900,000 compared with \$75,000.

expression in Jordan."

The government denies that there are any political prisoners in Jordan.

Minister of Interior Nathir Rashid was quoted in an interview with the Arabic daily Al Dustour on Wednesday as saying that "according to my knowledge there are no political prisoners or [anyone that is] imprisoned for security reasons. We are a state of institutions that have authority."

Mr. Daqour said "the constitution gives us the right to express our opinions in a peaceful way, and we were just trying to hold this pro-

## Hitch leaves Australian unable to waive death penalty against British nurse

RIYADH (AP) — A technical hitch left the brother of a murdered Australian nurse unable to formally waive his right Wednesday to demand the death penalty against the British nurse convicted of killing his sister, attorneys said.

Frank Gilford, who lives in the Australian city of Adelaide, agreed last week to waive his right to call for the death penalty against Deborah Parry under a \$1.2 million settlement.

Mr. Gilford's lawyers said that just before entering a courthouse in the eastern Saudi city of Dhahran Wednesday, they were told by the nurses' lawyers that they had not yet received the authorisation to proceed.

The nurses' Australian lawyers, who had negotiated the settlement with Mr. Gilford's lawyers in Adelaide, had not received the necessary go-ahead from their Saudi counterparts.

"I am disappointed that we were unable to deliver the waiver today," said Ghassan Awaji, a lawyer with the international law firm, which represents Mr. Gilford.

"We hope that the nurses' lawyers in Saudi Arabia and Australia will coordinate with one another so that we can submit the waiver without further delay," Mr. Awaji said in a statement.

The nurses' Saudi lawyer, Salah Hejelan, could not be reached for comment Wednesday.

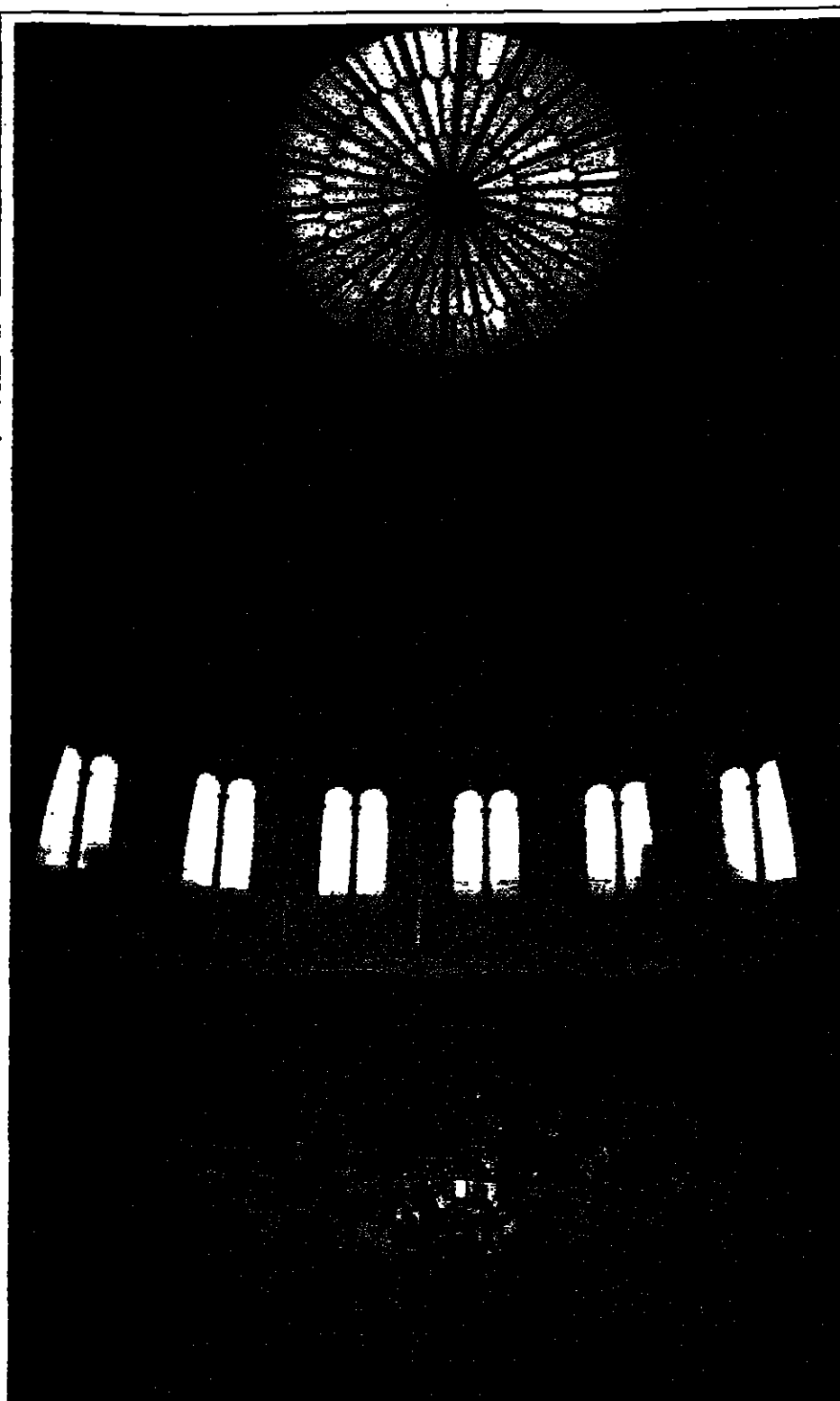
Under Saudi Arabia's strict Islamic law, families of murder victims can request the death sentence or ask that the sentence be commuted, usually in exchange for money.

cession in a peaceful manner but were prevented."

The government has drafted a law establishing the union in 1991, but has so far failed to submit it to Parliament for approval.

Mr. Daqour said the university council asked for permission to hold the march from Amman's Governor Tala'at Nawayseh but was denied it. Mr. Nawayseh was not immediately available for comment.

All of the students' councils in public universities are controlled by Islamist students.



RELOCATING THE HISTORIC: Readers take advantage of the last few days of the British Library's round reading room, Wednesday. The round reading room opened in May 1857 and over the past 140 years has catered for a celebrated list of authors and academics, including Karl Marx, Vladimir Lenin, George Bernard Shaw and Thomas Hardy. On Saturday October 25 the reading room closes its doors for the last time and will relocate to St. Pancras, London (Reuters photo)

## Papon trial clouded by '61 Algerian massacre

Algerian groups say French police killed many protestors, threw them in River Seine

PARIS (AFP) — Archives detailing the killings of dozens of Algerians in an alleged 1961 massacre during clashes with police gave a new twist to the trial of Maurice Papon Wednesday. A French newspaper published documents showing what it said were at least 70 deaths of Algerians in the Paris clashes during independence demonstrations, when Papon was police chief in the French capital.

Algerian groups claim police under his control killed many protesters and threw them into the River Seine. Officials put the death toll at only three, but Algerians and some historians say more than 200 may have been killed.

The daily Liberation published photocopies of archive documents showing lists of names of Algerians bearing the stamp "dead," mostly with the explanation "murdered."

"Some even included a written note 'fished out' ... After a non-exhaustive search, we already counted

70," it quoted the researcher who was granted access to the archives as saying.

Papon, 87, revived the row about the Algerian killings in court on Tuesday, attacking "this denunciation 25 years after the fact... for crimes which I am accused of without any other form of trial."

Officially Papon is on trial over his role in deporting more than 1,500 Jews from Bordeaux when he was in charge of "Jewish affairs" in Bordeaux in Nazi-occupied France during World War II.

But the Algerian massacre issue has threatened to cloud the case, which opened on Oct. 8 and is due to continue until Christmas.

Papon on Tuesday again denied the accusations that police killed Algerians, although he told the Bordeaux court that he was "proud to have undermined the strategy" of the Algerian protesters.

Official records say only three people died in the Oct. 17, 1961, incident when police clashed with demonstrators at the height of Algeria's struggle for inde-

pendence from France, achieved the following year.

Algerian groups claim more than 200 died as police tried to break up the demonstration, organised by the Algerian National Liberation Front (FLN), the main pro-independence group at the time.

But historian Jean-Luc Einaudi told the Bordeaux Assize Court that the police had opened fire on Algerians. "Police officers could have seen throwing those killed into the Seine," he said.

In response to the testimony, Culture Minister Catherine Trautmann announced last week that archives about the killings which normally remain secret for 60 years would be opened.

The documents published by Liberation were from these archives.

Last Friday some 1,000 demonstrators gathered under a Seine Bridge at a memorial rally, shouting "Papon, killer of Jews and Algerians" and throwing wreaths and dummies into the Seine.



## British coins get royal facelift

LONDON (AFP) — A new portrait of Queen Elizabeth II is to appear on newly minted British coins starting January 1 next year, Buckingham Palace announced Wednesday. The queen, who along with her husband Prince Philip will celebrate their golden wedding anniversary next month, will be shown wearing a tiara she was given as a wedding present by her grandmother, Queen Mary, on her marriage in 1947. The 71-year-old monarch is shown wearing the tiara on current Bank of England notes, and she wore it on the portrait for the first decimal coins, as they came into circulation from 1968 onwards. But it was replaced in coins from 1985 onwards by a diadem the queen wears for such occasions as the State Opening of Parliament. The new portrait is the work of Ian Rank-Broadley who was born in 1952, the year the queen came to the throne on the death of her father George VI.

## Hello magazine signs a deal with Duchess Fergie

LONDON (AFP) — Britain's Duchess of York has signed a \$1.9 million-a-year deal with a celebrity magazine to give them "everything about her," it was reported Wednesday. "Fergie" signed the deal with Hello! Magazine in Madrid just days after the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, in a car accident in Paris, the Express said. The paper said Fergie and the magazine discussed "how she might fill the yawning gap left by the death of the princess, who sold more copies [of the magazine] than anyone else." "She basically agreed to give them everything about her for a monthly retainer," said the paper's source. A spokesman for Fergie confirmed the meeting with Hello! had taken place but refused to comment further.

## Sinatra wanted to marry Marilyn Monroe

LOS ANGELES (AFP) — A new book says Frank Sinatra considered asking Marilyn Monroe to marry him, to protect her, weeks before she died in 1962. "No one will mess with her if she is Mrs. Frank Sinatra. No one would dare," writer Randall Taraborrelli quotes a Sinatra friend as saying in the book "Sinatra: The Man Behind The Myth." The book is being serialised in The London Daily Mail.

## Clint Eastwood wanted to sterilise his ex-wife

LOS ANGELES (AFP) — Actress Sondra Locke says ex-husband Clint Eastwood talked her into having two abortions and into sterilising herself by telling her he didn't want any more kids. But she also said he had three children by two other women while living with her. It all comes out in a new book, "The Good, the Bad and the Very Ugly," Locke also says Eastwood insisted that she call him "Daddy," criticised her interior design, and asked before having sex, "Sweetie, did you floss?" Eastwood's spokesman declined comment on the book.

## Andrews loses her voice

NEW YORK (AFP) — Julie Andrews has not regained her voice, and the opening of the American tour of the musical comedy "Victor/Victoria" which was supposed to begin in August is still on hold. "We just have to wait and see when Julie is ready," co-producer Tony Adams told the New York Post. Andrews, 60, had an operation on her throat in June, after missing more than 100 Broadway perfor-

## Anti-riot police prevent students from marching in demand of student union

By Tareq Ayyoub  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Police Wednesday prevented University of Jordan students from marching from campus to the Ministry of Interior Circle to demand the establishment of a general union of Jordan students.

Anti-riot police, armed with clubs and gas canisters, formed a human chain to prevent the students from leaving campus.

University security prevented reporters and camera crews from entering the campus to cover the event and a

scuffle, which ended peacefully, started when two of the university security personnel tried to push journalists away.

The organisers of the protest abandoned the march after one hour and the students dispersed peacefully.

The president of the university students' council, Mahmoud Daqour, told the Jordan Times that in addition to demanding the establishment of a general union for students, the protest was aimed at pressing the government to "release political detainees from jails and lifting the ceiling of freedom of

expression in Jordan."

The government denies that there are any political prisoners in Jordan.

Minister of Interior Nathir Rashid was quoted in an interview with the Arabic daily Al Dustour on Wednesday as saying that "according to my knowledge there are no political prisoners or [anyone that is] imprisoned for security reasons. We are a state of institutions that have authority."

Mr. Daqour said "the constitution gives us the right to express our opinions in a peaceful way, and we were just trying to hold this pro-

cession in a peaceful manner but were prevented."

The government has drafted a law establishing the union in 1991, but has so far failed to submit it to Parliament for approval.

Mr. Daqour said the university council asked for permission to hold the march from Amman's Governor Tala'at Nawayseh but was denied it. Mr. Nawayseh was not immediately available for comment.

All of the students' councils in public universities are controlled by Islamist students.



Riot-police block the main entrance gate of the University of Jordan to prevent students from marching in demand of a student union on Wednesday (Photo by Youssef Allan)